No. 65,898

SATURDAY MAY 24 1997



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POR DILLY YE GILOLL

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EU leaders talk of the ice melting

PLUS: CAR97.

Blair: I want to forge a new Europe

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND CHARLES BREMNER IN NOORDVLIK

TONY BLAIR strode confidently on to the European stage yesterday and promised to use his landslide election victory to help the construc-tion of a new Europe that would become popular with a doubting public.

The Prime Minister placed jobs at the top of the European . Union agenda as he called for a "radical shift in Europe's horizons". He urged the EU to become less obsessed with itself and its institutions and more concerned with the issues that mattered to people. including public health, fraud and the environment.

He was determined, he said, that Britain should once more become a "major player" in

Mr Blair's call for a new Europe — effectively telling his fellow leaders that they should try to emulate his ing new Labour - risked charges that Europe's new boy" was trying to move too iast. He was, however, given a warm welcome by his fellow EU leaders, who were happy to leave the detailed negotiations for the Amsterdam summit in three weeks time, when a new treaty charting Europe's progress in the next century will be signed.

Among some the enthusiasm for Mr Blair was palpable Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, said his arrival "could be the moment the ice melts in negotiations on Europe's

future". There was talk of "fog lifting in the English Channel" and even the old hands were happy to be impressed. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, spoke optimisti-cally about the chances of a deal at Amsterdam. "Mr Blair has not become obsessed with a single issue," Herr Kohl said. "Mr Blair sees himself in the middle of Europe and does not intend to be in a cul de

Speaking at a press conference last night, the Prime Minister said there was a lot of hard bargaining to be done before a deal could be struck, but there was a general desire to reach an accord. But it has got to be an agreement that properly protects British national interests and ensures that Britain is relevant to the people out there," Mr Blair said.

part of the EU, as it would under a Labour Government, we have got to get the best deal for Britain out of Europe. That means Britain has a contribution to make to shape the future of Europe, not sitting there and resisting what everyone else does."

Mr Blair said there were hard things to resolve before Amsterdam, but "what people understand from this British Government is that we want a Europe that works - it works in British interests, but it works".

The Prime Minister believes that the biggest electoral win

in modern political history, and the excitement it has generated across the Continent, has strengthened his campaign for a Europe shaped along British lines.

The mood of goodwill at Mr Blair's first European gathering did not prevent him laying down a series of key demands on border controls, fish quotas and jobs that will have to be met before he will sign up to the new treaty. In his first meeting on the summit's sidelines he told Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that there would be serious political difficulties in the United Kingdom if the decision to sign up to the social chapter led to a flood of regulations that imposed new costs on British business.

. It emerged later that Mr Blair is insisting that his demand for flexible labour accept measures that threaten jobs, should be written into the Amsterdam treaty.

Mr Blair also told his EU counterparts that the summit must produce a package of measures to deal with the problem of fish quota hopping that has outraged British fishermen. Under an agreement that has been taking shape in recent days, boat owners with a licence to fish the British quota will be required to have a connection at a local port or region, and to land a certain amount of fish at British ports.

Blair welcomed, page 16



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Police hunt refugee child's killer

THE killer of Katerina Koneva was still at large last night as a school mourned the loss of one of its most gifted pupils. Although English was her second

language, the Macedonian-born 12-yearold, found strangled at her West London home, had established herself as one of the brightest among 1,400 children at Holland Park School in Kensington. Flowers were placed at the spot where her father struggled with his daughter's

him a few minutes after Katerina was killed. The police, who said the killer's motive for entering the family's flat in Hammersmith was unclear, appealed for help in the streets through which Trajce Koney, a mature student, pursued the intruder before he hijacked a car and escaped. Mr Konev returned to the flat to

find his daughter dying. It had been a new home for the family. Mr Konev, his wife Jacqueline, Katerina and her brother Kristian, six, were parted

when he left former Yugoslavia in 1993 to build a new life for his family. They were reunited two years later and, after a period living in hotels, believed that their problems were past.

Mary Marsh, Katerina's head teacher. said she was a special child. Always punctual and never off sick in eight months, she was the leader of the junior choir. The number of merit marks she had obtained was exceptional.

INSIDE

McAliskey bail for baby's birth

Roisin McAliskey, the terrorist suspect, was re-leased from Holloway jail and taken to the Whittington Hospital in north London to prepare for the birth of her baby. Ms McAliskey, 25, is suffering from asthma.

She had been granted bail by Mr Justice Hooper at a private hearing. The baby is two days overdue and is said to weigh 5lb.

Carer jailed for abusing boys

Roger Saint, 50, was jailed for 6½ years for what the judge called "persistent and determined" sexual abuse of young boys in his

care over a 13-year period. The Government is to close the loophole that allowed local authorities to continue sending him boys despite knowing that he had a conviction for indecent assault ... Page 11

Football world club event

Fifa, the governing body of world football, is planning a world club championship to fill the idle month of July in years between World Cup and European championship summers.

The tournament would cluding the champions from each of Fifa's six confederations Page 52

Halifax shares may top 700p

Halifax members can expect the shares in their handout to rise above 700p on the first day of trading next week. A member receiving a minimum if 200 shares can therefore expect £1,400, more than £500 higher than the original estimate of £840 ... Page 27

Sir Stanley ill

Sir Stanley Matthews, 82, the footballer who won 54 England caps, was in comfortable condition in North Staffordshire Hospital after being admitted with chest

The Times on the Internet. http://www.the-times.co.uk

Driver using mobile phone is jailed after death crash

By RICHARD FORD

A DRIVER who caused the death of another motorist in a crash seconds after he made a call on his mobile telephone was jailed for six months

yesterday.

Peter Mill, 34, a marketing manager, had been listening to his message service shortly before his vehicle crossed the road and collided head-on with a van on a bend near Bracknell, Berkshire. The driver of the van, Geoffrey Martin, 54, died from the injuries in the crash in 1994.

Last night road safety campaigners hailed the sentence as a warning to motorists who use a mobile phone while driving and called for it to be made an offence. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said that using a mobile phone while driving should become as unacceptable as drinking and driving.
Judge Lait told Mill, of Locks Heath, Southampton,

that he was not being sen-tenced on the basis that he had been using the mobile phone at the time of the car crash. Sentencing him at Reading Crown Court, he said: "There may well be speculation that using the mobile phone shortly before the bend was a factor which contributed to you not having proper control of your vehicle but it can be no more than suspicion.™

Outside the court, Lynn Murray, 47, the dead man's widow, said: "I would hope



that the media coverage of this case would help to make people more aware of the dangers of using a hand-held phone while driving."

Bank Holiday sunshine spells misery for hayfever victims

By HARVEY ELLIOTT TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

NINE million British hayfever sufferers face a sniffing. eye-streaming Bank Holiday weekend as hot weather brings the first pollen outbreak of the season.

Last night forecasters were predicting that the whole country would enjoy a sunny break, although the nights may be cold and even frosty. But the rise in temperature and therefore in pollen clouds

the year on the 15 per cent of the population who suffer from hayfever.

we are expecting the first dry

Much will depend whether temperatures rise above I6C (60.8F), the point at which experts say pollen is most likely to burst out. Dr Jean Emberlin, of the Pollen Research Unit in Worcester, said: "Until now the unsettled weather prevented the pollen from lifting off the plants. Over the weekend, however.

with temperatures rising to about ISC (64.4F), which will liberate the pollen."

At least 1.5 million people are taking advantage of the Bank Holida/ weekend and the start of half-term today to take longer breaks in the Mediterranean and Florida. Eurostar expects to carry

60,000 passengers to Paris or Brussels, and the AA predicts

Forecast, page 26



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Sinn Fein sweeps Unionists from power in Belfast

CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPUNDENT

SINN FEIN secured a huge vote in this week's local elections in Northern Ireland. ending more than a century of Unionist rule in Belfast and consolidating the success that the party scored on May 1.

In its most successful election result since the Troubles erupted in 1969, Sinn Fein increased its overall share of the vote by 4.7 percentage points at local level to 16.9 per cent, it was announced yesterday. Three weeks ago, republicans achieved a historic high in the general election with 16.1 per cent of the overall vote.

Sinn Fein invoked its success to demand a place at the multi-party talks when they resume on June 3. Gerry Adams, the party's president, very clear message that our strategy is being endorsed. The British Government should recognise that and treat Sinn Fein on the same basis as every other party."

The Prime Minister, who allowed Sinn Fein to meet civil servants in Belfast this week, will remain adamant that republicans can only join the Stormont talks after an unequivocal IRA ceasefire. But ministers will be acutely aware that Sinn Fein is a potent political force which can no longer be dismissed as marginal.

Protestant voters stayed away from Wednesday's polls while nationalists turned out in record numbers. Unionists looked on in despair as they lost control of Belfast City Council - seen as the bastion of Protestant-rule in Ulster and councils in Fermanagh. Strabane and Cookstown.

The loss of Belfast is immensely symbolic for Unionists. They uneasily eyed jubilant Sinn Fein opponents at the count in Belfast City Hall as republicans gained three seats to become the joint largest party with the Ulster Unionists. A strong performance by the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Alliance Party meant that Unionists lost overall control of the council by one seat. The result paved the way for the first nationalist Lord Mayor on Belits Royal Charter in 1888.

In Londonderry, Sinn Fein captured three seats to end the SDLPs domination of the

Sinn Fein achieved such a strong vote throughout North-ern Ireland by convincing thousands of nationalists to vote for the first time. The republican vote was also boosted by the tradition of vote early, vote often". As the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists joined together to criticise Sinn Fein, the Chief Electoral Officer said there had been a "planned campaign of mai-practice". Pat Bradley did no name any parties, but said there had been an abuse of pestal and prote votes.

Unionist leaders said that traditional supporters had stayed at home because they felt allenated from the



Mowlam suggests US visa for Adams if IRA calls a ceasefire

ROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MO MOWLAM risked fresh controversy in Washington yesterday when she sog-gested that the American Government should grant Gerry Adams a new visa as soon as the iRA declared a ceasefire.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said that it was a matter for the Clinton Administration, but saw the possibility of a visit by the Sinn Fein President as helpful to the process. "If there is an IRA ceasefire, then I think an invitation would help," she said, "If there is not a ceasefire, I'm not sure it would be a terribly helpful step. But if there is no undue delay. I think hat would be a possible step."

Dr Mowlam, in Washington for two days of talks with the Clinton Administration and members of Congress, eschewed the hard line taken by the Tories over fundraising by Sinn Fein in America. "I would be happier if people knew what they were raising funds for, but it is a free

peace as a firm priority. Dr Mowlam is urging the Administration to maintain a solid presence in the Ulster process.

The White House has been eager for an early visit by Dr Mowlam and, after the Prime Minister's speech last week in which he offered Sinn Fein the chance to meet government officials in advance of an IRA ceasefire. Clinton aides said there was a new sense of hope. After meeting Senators Edward Kenne-

dy and Christopher Dodd, both influential in the Irish-American lobby, Dr Mowlam was holding talks with Samuel Berger, the National Security Adviser, and Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State. Her mission was designed to bring dual pressure on Sinn Fein from both the Administration and Congress for a meaningful ceasefire and from leading congressmen to convince the nationalist communities in Northern Ireland of the need for a peaceful marching season.

After the dramatic visit to Ireland by

broom, and Northern Ireland the Administration appeared to have put the Ulster process on a back burner. The departure of two key American negotiators in Ireland seemed to emphasise Mr Clinton's fear that further involvement would be politically risky.

Burthe White House yesterday adopted a tone of cautious optimism for the future. In terms of actual specific steps that we will be taking that will probably have to wait until after the Irish elections," one official said. "But already there is a sense of hopefulness of improvement. Today we are brainstorming with Dr Mowlam on

ways to move forward." Several influential congressmen yesterday urged President Clinton to make Northern treland peace a priority at his meeting next week with Tony Blair at the European summit in The Hague.

The best hope for progress in Ireland rests with the United States continuing to play the role of honest broker in the conflict," read a statement issued by the group, which included Ben Gilman and Peter King, Republicans who exert a strong influence among Irish-Americans.

Assisted places pledge 'broken'

Independent schools yesterday accused the Government of breaking a preelection pledge to honour subsidised places at preparatory schools after the Education Bill indicated that assisted places would cease to be funded when the child is 11, even though 2,000 children in the scheme were not due to leave prep school until the

Peter Kilfoyle, a Labour education spokesman, had said before the election that it would continue until 13. David Woodhead director of the Indepen-dent Schools Information Service, said their education would be disrupted.

School strike

Teachers at a school where pupils ran amok after five staff were sacked because of budget cuts voted to go on strike. The teachers at the Frank Montgomery School at Sturry near Canterbury decided in a secret ballot organised by their union, the NASUWT, to begin industrial action after half-term.

Prison stalker

A stalker was given a further three years in jail for terrorising his victim after being sent to prison. Andrew Haywood, 28, for-merty of Nottingham, admitted sending a Christmas card containing the words "rest in peace" to his victim, a nurse, the day after he was jailed last year

Curb on faxes

The sending of unsolicited direct mail by fax to people's homes is to be curbed. pie s nomes is to be curbed, under new guidelines. The Direct Marketing Associ-ation has drawn up a code of 'conduct, under which anyone' who no longer wishes to be bombarded their names on a list called

Ex-PC fined

A former policeman was found guilty at Stafford Crown Court of assaulting a 14-year-old boy he had caught kicking a fence. Edwin Skeates, 37, of Burton-on-Trent, was ordered to pay the teenager £250 compensation. The court was told that the attack left the boy with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Royal haul

The silver Communion spoon used by Queen Victoria on her deathbed was among £40,000 of royal relics stolen yesterday from a church designed by Prince Albert A chair used by Queen Victoria was also taken in the raid on Royal St Mildred's Church at Whippingham on the Isle of Wight.

Lipman ill

The actress Maureen Chichester Festival Theatre's summer season after being told that she needs surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumour from her back. Ms Lipman was to have played Madame Arcati in the produc-tion of Noel Coward's classic Blithe Spirit.

Top drawer

Peter Brookes, The Times cartoonist, has won two awards for his work during the election campaign. Judges in The Macallan Best Political Cartoon Competition, who included Kenneth Baker, decid-ed the Brookes had produced the best Conservative and best Liberal Democrat cartoon.

President Clinton in 1995 and the subsecountry." she said. quent resumption of violence by the IRA. Portraying the Labour Government as Blowing her top in front of the press

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE Northern Ireland Secretary, who has made informality her trademark, ast nished eight American journalists by removing her wig at a press

briefing.

Mo Mowlam removed the blend wig halfway through a sentence about her hopes for improved relations between the Government and the Clinton Administration. Ms Mcwlam, 47, the first woman in one of the taughest posts in the Cabinet, placed the wig on her desk and kept taking on the eye of her tour of Washington

yesterday Ms Mewlam, who had complained it was certing stuff, in her London office, said at the meeting on Thursday: "I am going to take my hair off, I denteure about incl. There

had enough of it today. I'm in a mood. I have had a bad start to the day." Edith Lederer. who represented Associated Press, said: "Without skipping a beat, she then outlined what the US can do to help the Labour Government bring peace to Northern Ireland." Ms Mowlam, who is recovering from treatment for a senign brain tumour, had enjoyed a flying start as Northern Ireland Secretary.

But her day went wrong when she was subjected to a tirade of criticism from the Ulster Unionists after she had warned them that they faced exclusion from the peace proress if they opposed Sinn Fein's entry into peace talks. She told the American correspondents: "Without the

Sir Patrick: sedate style has been overturned

Unionists in. it won't be a very meaningful talks process, but if we are going to go forward we have to make it clear that no one has a veto." The multiparty talks resume on

June 3, chaired by George Mitchell, the former US Senator, whom she praised for process going".

Ms Mowlam, who put on

weight after taking steroids, lost all her hair after radiotherapy treatment. It was growing back, but not quickly enough, as the American press corps discovered.

She admitted that she was still not used to wearing the

wig because when she gesticu-lates, it moves, "My real problem is holding on to my wig getting in and out of helicopters, she said.

Ms Mowlam won many friends in Northern Ireland within hours of taking up her post when she staged an impromptu walkabout, embracing children and pensioners. Her style is in contrast to

the vice-regal sedateness of Sir Patrick Mayhew, whose clipped tones chimed perfectly with the turrets and battlements of Stormout Castle which is her office in Ulster. When the non-maligant tu-

mour was diagnosed. Ms Mowlam told only a few friends. She coped until the tabloids ran a series of stories about her two-stone increase in weight and one columnist likened her to an "only slightly effeminate Geordie trucker".

it was after that she revealed that she was wearing a wig and had been on a course of steroids. She said this week that the extra weight was beginning to fall away. "I am feeling in good nick," she told the American journalists. "When I get my hair back. I'll be there.

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THE SPANISH GRAND PRIX

Will Schumacher do it again?

Rothermere hints

at Mail reversal

By Carol Midgley, media correspondent

VISCOUNT Rothermere, the

proprietor of the Daily Mail.

vesterday indicated that the

newspaper may change its traditional support for the

Conservatives to reflect the

Lord Rothermere, who on

Wednesday joined the Labour

benches in the House of

Lords, said a different polit-

ical view could be necessary if

readers thought the paper was "getting out of date".

plans to scrap hereditary peers' voting rights. Lord Rothermere, who inherited

his title from his father in

1978, said on Radio 4's The

World at One: "I am a

democrat and I believe in

democracy. The world moves forward ... Nobody has a hereditary right to govern.

Asked whether Paul Dacre.

Editor of the Mail, would be

allowed to continue the

He also backed Labour

new mood" of its readers.

CHUZZLEWIT

STAR MEITH

rlier on lad

Culture and

Banking The

spice eigls

paper's Eurosceptic line. Lord

Rothermere said: "It is a free

country and he is entitled to

his views and to express them.

But, of course, if they start to

affect the circulation that will

Speciator found that 29 per

cent of Daily Mail readers

had voted Lahour, a 15.5 per

Lord Rothermere said Lah-

our was carrying out policies

that the Conservative Party

should have put through be-

fore its election defeat like

helping small businesses and "taking the right attitude in

Europe*. He described Tony

Blair as Textremely astute and

tremendously energetic".
"What he is doing so far is

what the Tory Government

should have done and he is

really quite a good modern

Conservative. He's a modern

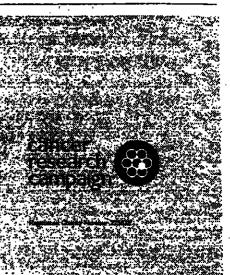
A recent study by The

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'There is terrible grief today in our community'

Witnesses tell how father chased daughter's killer

A GIRL who was found stran gled after her father disturbed an intruder in their home, was part of a family trying to build a new life in Britain after escaping the political unrest in the former Yugoslavia.

Katerina Koneva, 12, who arrived in London two years ago from Macedonia, had already gained a reputation as one of the most gifted pupils at

Yesterday further details emerged of how her father grappled with her killer, who had jumped from their firstfloor flat in Hammersmith. not knowing that his daughter was dying inside. The intruder streets before hijacking a car

and escaping.

The attacker was still being sought last night. Police said motive for being in the flat on Thursday, but had no reason to believe he was known to the family.

Katerina left Holland Park School, in Kensington, as normal on Thursday afternoon and was alone in the family's flat in Iffley Road when she was attacked. Her father, Trajce, a business studies student, appears to have disturbed the intruder as he went up the stairs to the flat. The man locked the door from the inside and leapt from a first floor window. Mr Konev ran whose four year old son, Gem,



A police officer in protective overalls examines the first-floor window through which the killer jumped

the intruder for a short time

before he broke free. Ilkay Hussein, who lives nearby, said: "I saw two men struggling outside the house. Mr Konev had the other man in a bear hug. He let go for a second to close the front door and the man got away. He walked away - it seems strange now that he did not run, Mr Konev followed a

short distance behind." The two men then went along Hebron Road, Agate Road, Amor Road and across smith Grove, where the intruder tried to commandeer Jane Hanlon's Datsun car. Mrs Hanlon, 42, a bookkeeper

was in the front seat, said: "I saw two men, one on either side of my car. One had blood on the side of his face as if he had been punched. He tried to get into the car, through the open window.

"I wound it up and sped

away. I was terrified for my son. One of the men was shouting 'Call the police'." The intruder then tried to get into a lorry in Hammersmith Grove, then turned his

attentions to a black Fiat Uno.

which had two women in it. managed to kick the man away, said Lee Lovell, 21, who knocked him back on to the road. She was shouting for help. Then she got out of the drove off." The car was found abandoned a few hundred

but found the flat door locked from the inside. A Ukrainian who lives downstairs described how the distraught father then broke into the flat and discovered his daughter.

The neighbour, who gave his name as Igor, said: "He was calling for help because he could not get the door open. He took an old table from a skip in the street and used it to try to open it.

"Me and my girlfriend were helping him and then we saw his daughter lying on the

Pupils at Holland Park School were said to be heartbroken. She was a second-year pupil who led the junior choir and had never missed a day since starting there in September. She had gained 50 commendations and was described by Mary Marsh. her head teacher, as an "exceptional pupil".

Mrs Marsh said: "Katerina thrived on commitment and leadership. There is terrible grief today in our community. We heard of her death with profound sadness. This is so

The victim had a six year old brother, Kristian. Her mother, Jacqueline, is studying English. Mr Konev arrived in England four years ago.



The sun shone on Earl Granville and his wife after their wedding on North Uist in the Outer Hebrides yesterday. The Queen sent her best wishes

Queen's godson marries nurse

By JOANNA BALE

THE sixth Earl Granville, a godson of the Queen, married a former trainee nurse on the family estate in the Outer Hebrides yesterday. The Earl and the new Countess. Anne Topping, have known each other for eight years after meeting at a party

About 150 guests were at the private service in Kilmuir Church on North Uist, and over 300 later attended a reception at the family seat of Callernish. The Queen was unable to attend because of previous engagements but sent her good wishes.

The Countess, 28, is held in deep on the island. She said: When I met Fergus I did not know he had a title. I only found out later. I come from a fairly ordinary, middleclass background, but his title did not mean that much to me. I am just happy to be Fergus's wife."

She was given away by her father. Bernard. a retired headmaster and the service was conducted by the local Church of Scotland Minister. the Rev David MacInnes.

Pleased at the sunny weather. Earl Granville, 37, said: "I was very nervous before the service, but I am a very happy man. I have a marvellous and lovely wife."

The Countess helps as a volunteer carer with a local Alzheimers Group, cooking and serving lunch at a day

Judges will rule today on wife's right to abortion

A PREGNANT woman will for Mr Kelly, claimed that a learn today whether she can. have an abortion after an day of protracted legal argument

his unborn baby's life. James: Kelly, 28, from Inverkeithing, Fife, went to the Appeal Court in Edinburgh vesterday in a final attempt to maintain the temporary ba preventing his estranged wife Lynne, 21, a cabaret singer, from terminating her threemonth pregnancy. Earlier in the week he was told he had no rights as a father over the

As Mrs Kelly's father, John Falconer, listened from the public benches at the court. esterday, the foetus growing inside his daughter was made the subject of four and a half hours of legal wrangling be-

Anne Smith, QC, for Mrs Kelly, argued that the foetus had no separate legal identity from its mother and the father had no right in law to interfere Colin Sutherland, QC. father, as one of the unborn child's guardians, could act to

Mrs Smith said that although the mother had not had a scan, she was believed to be 12 to 14 weeks pregnant and it was just a matter of "days before she will not be able to have an abortion without hav-

The judges, headed by Lord Cullen, were told that Mrs Kelly had been driven from the family home and forced to live in a women's refuge during her marriage. In May 1996 Mr Kelly was convicted

of assaulting his wife. Mr Sutherland said that the foetus had established rights "in itself" under civil law from the moment of conception and could uphold those rights in

anticipation of its birth. He questioned the consistency of the law which allowed a father to protect his unborn child from injury in civil matters, for example in a case of medical negligence, but appeared to give him no rights when those injuries would be fatal. The Abortion Act 1967 in certain circumstances, but did not make it lawful under civil law, he said.

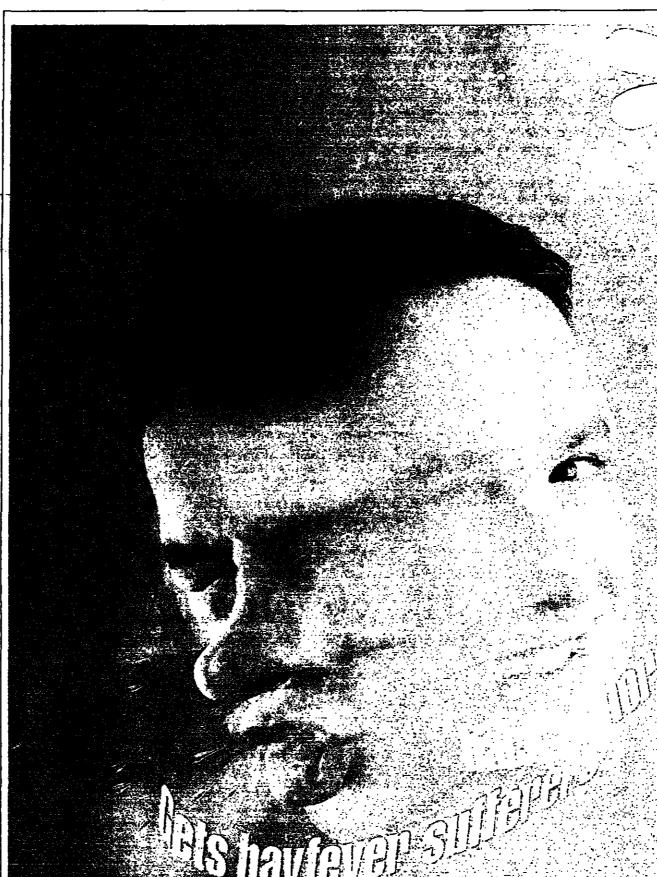
"If abortion is a civil wrong. which in my submission it is because it will damage the foetus, then it must be capable or deing interdicted obvious people who would have title and interest to sue, must be a child's potential guardians," he said.

But Mrs Smith argued that the foetus's rights as a human being became active only at birth. She said: "A foetus is an intrinsic part of the body of a pregnant woman. It is as much a part of her body as the placenta or umbilical cord. She is not merely a convenient

She said the basis on which Mr Kelly had obtained the original interim interdict (emergency ban) on Thursday was "seriously open to question". He had claimed his wife had given false information to doctors about his violence towards her, yet a year earlier he had been convicted of assaulting her.

The battle over the abortion began on Thursday when Mr Kelly, a roofer, was granted an emergency ban stopping his wife terminating the pregnancy at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. The operation was due to take place the following day. He is the first father in Britain to be granted legal means to delay a termination.

The couple had separated two weeks before he was granted the ban after a short and stormy marriage in which each accused the other of 18-month-old daughter, Hazel.



Conman in drag fooled cashiers - but only once

James and Lynne Kelly on their wedding day. The pair separated shortly before Mr Kelly won an interim ban

By PETER FOSTER

woman fooled bank cashiers into handing over ransom slid an envelope under the money after claiming his daughter had been kidnapped.

Michael Barton, 29, borrowed his girlfriend's handhag and put on a hat, gloves and scarf bought from a second-hand shop before entering the bank and pushing a ransom note over the counter. The demand claimed a child had been kidnapped and was bound and gagged in a car boot. The letter said the kidnappers were listening in on bugging devices and they would kill the child if a substantial sum was not hand-

ed over. The confidence trick worked when Barton, an aromatherapist, went into a branch of Barclays Bank in

A MAN who dressed up as a Moore, for the prosecution, said Barton went to the till and

security glass before whispering: "They have got my child."

The letter began: "The life and safety of an eight-year-old girl kidnapped from her home this morning depends on you fulfilling the demand herein." The letter said the safe

return of the child depended on the cashiers handing over several thousand pounds in a plastic bag inside an envelope. Mr Moore said the cashiers were warned that if they called security or police, the girl would suffer and a detailed map of where the child's body could be found would be sent

to national newspapers. The cashiers were so struck what they read that they decided the proper course of action was to put money in the Coventry on February 17. Neil bag and they placed £1,600 in

it and slid it under the counter," Mr Moore said.

Ten days later Barton tried the scam again at a branch of Midland Bank in Oxford but the cashier recognised her blackmailer as a man. Bank officials coaxed Barton into a backroom where he insisted his name was Alice Hargreaves before producing an electronic pager, claiming it was the bugging device. Shortly afterwards police were

called and Barton confessed. Howard Wilson, for the defence, told Oxford Crown Court that Barton had been driven to desperate measures after two failed business ventures left him in debt.

Judge Charles Harris, QC sentenced Barton, from Coventry, to 21 months in jail on each offence to run consecutively. Barton had a previous conviction for blackmail.

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Sad farewell to an industry well past its peak

By Russell Jenkins

THE last big manufacturer of quality felt hats bowed to the dictates of fashion yesterday after 3 more than 200 years of supplying homburgs, trilbies and topped to gentlemen of distinction.

Christy of Stockport, fighting a losing battle against the baseball cap and bare headedness, is closing its factory in the town with the loss of lll jobs.

Sir Winston-Churchill favoured a Christy homburg during the dark days of the Second World War, President Mikhail Gorbachev loved his trilby and the males of every generation of British royalty since the company's establishment in 1773 hung a Christy on the palace peg. The company also made bowlers for Whitehall civil servants, tweed caps for the county set and dressage hats for generations of.

But Christy has been gradually succumbing to the inevitable. Stockport, whose football team is called "The Hatters", became famous for the manufacture of men's fur felt hats and in the last century there were more than 30 factories turning out quality hats to be sold around the world. The company, founded by the Quaker duo Miller Christy and Joseph Stores, was among the biggest and best. This century, however, men have slowly but surely thrown off their hats and caps.

Mark Billing, chief executive, said yesterday: "It is a very sad day. We have been here since the 1820s. What happended was that-during the 1950s and 60s hat wearing declined and most of the other Stockport businesses closed



Top of the range: Harold Wood, a hatmaker at the Christy factory in Stockport that has made quality headwear favoured by generations of royalty

last surviving maker of men's felt past eight to nine months to such bats in the United Kingdom. It's a an extent that they are so low we

real shame.

cannot sustain the overheads as-"The reason why we have had sociated with this large site. It is down. We acquired companies to do this now is simply because the end of an era. Everyone was over the years until we were the sales have been declining over the expecting it. The people of Stock-

port are not daft. They realise formal hat wearing among men is declining rapidly. All the growth is in the youth market with baseball caps, knitted and Kangol caps. We tried it but people

associate Christy with traditional

Maxine Nixon, of the GMB trade union, said: "We have known they have been having difficulties but unless we can force

nothing we can do." Over the years Christy had assimilated many of the town's failing businesses and, in recent years, has struggled on as Brit-

ain's last surviving felt hat maker. Even now, more than half the top hats in Ascot's Royal Enclosure are probably Christy's. The company's straw boaters and panamas can still be seen shielding the over-lunched faces of MCC members at Lord's from the sun and covering the bald patches of Wimbledon tennis umpires. Teenage girls covet the Christy Beaufort, the classic velvet-covered equestrian safety helmet and the company sponsors the Olympic three-day eventer Tina Gifford.

A craze for toppers after the success of Four Weddings and a Funeral proved only a blip on more-sustained fashion for designer-label baseball caps manufactured cheaply in the Far East has comfirmed the demise of the

flat cap.

Christy briefly flirted with the kind of cap seen turned around on stars such as the footballer Eric Cantona and the tennis player Andre Agassi, and the Kangol, as modelled by the pop singer Liam Gallagher, but, as one senior executive lamented: "Who wants to wear a Christy baseball cap?"

The announcement of the factory's closure comes three months after the award of a £1,328,000 grant from the Heritage Lonery Fund to establish the first national Museum of Hatting in the Grade ll listed Wellington Mill. Now much of the machinery and artefacts in Christy's factory will find a new home in the museum when the factory finally closes towards the end of the year.

Some of the company's operations will be transferred to small factories in Bury, Greater Manchester, and Witney,

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'Killing field' farmer is fined for poisoning birds

AN ELDERLY pig farmer, whose land was like a "killing field". littered with animal corpses, poisoned bait and ancient traps, was fined £13,500 yesterday for killing rare birds of prey.
John Edwards, 87, was

"dedicated to killing creatures," magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, were told. He had poisoned three red kites, a protected species, because he believed an old wives' tale about them attacking animals.

David Robinson, for the prosecution, said that Mr Edwards was using pole traps, outlawed in 1904, and gin traps, banned 30 years ago, to kill rabbits, foxes, crows and pheasants. He would then lace the corpses. with poison to attract the rare red kites to his farm at Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

Police raided the farm in April last year after neighbours found the bodies of three red kites. They discovered banned chemicals, poi-

bait, 50 gin traps, nine pole traps and dozens of syringes,

wards believed the birds hunted for prey on his farm despite evidence that kites only ate carrion. He said: "Over the decades much has changed in the ways of the countryside. While public opinion and the law has moved on Mr Edwards has remained rooted in a past that has long these practices go.

The building in which the officers found these cruel items was dedicated to the killing of creatures that Mr. Edwards simply did not like." The court was told that red

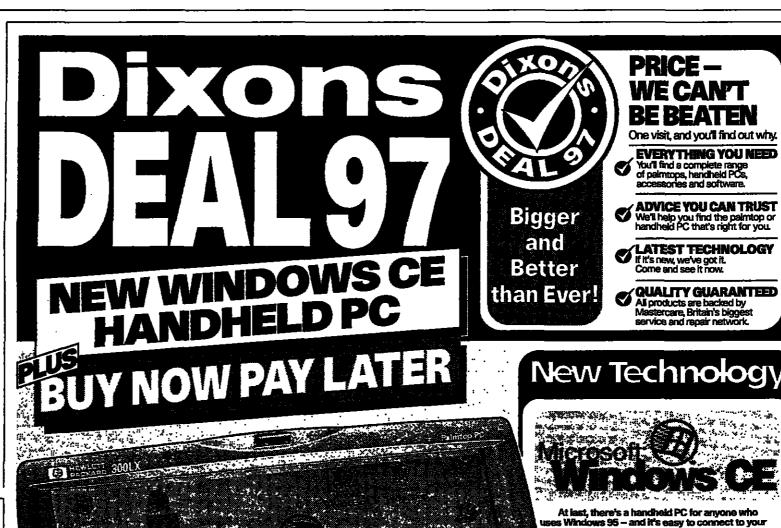
kites were common across Britain 200 years ago but were almost wiped out at the end of the 19th century by farmers. A project was launched in 1989 to re-introduce the species to England and successful breeding began three years later.

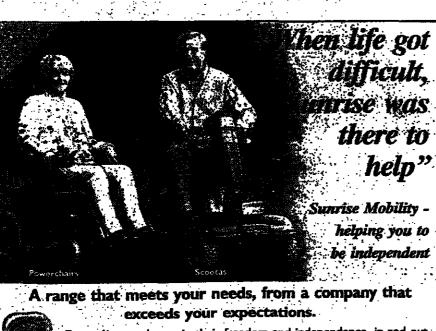
During the trial Edwards admitted he did not like the

soned carcasses being used as birds but insisted he had never harmed them. He said: "I think the conservationists some filled with poison. have been silly to bring them
Mr Robinson claimed Ed- back into this country. It should be the people who release them who also come to feed them. Why should my farm provide for them?"

The sentence, believed to be a record for such an offence, with £500 costs, was imposed after Edwards had been convicted of one specimen charge under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act of killing a red kite and of possessing traps and syringes for an unlawful purpose. He denied the charges but admitted possessing two banned poisons and storing syringes containing a dangerous chemical.

After the verdict, Guy Shorrock, investigating officer for the RSPB, said: "I am surprised by the size of the fine but it sends a clear message that society will not tolerate this kind of crime." He said poisoning of rare birds was still a big problem.





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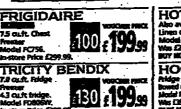




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Pavlos asked to have an affair. I did not feel good about it ... I had been in a very long marriage'

Woman asked to 'rate' lover who gave her HIV

IN LARNACA

HIV by a Cypriot fisherman composure yesterday as she denied allegations that she had moved to Cyprus to

oursue her sex life. Shifting uncomfortably 45, looked startled when asked how she rated as a lover the man who had infected her. Was he "good, very good, average or excellent?" she was

"Good," she snapped and for the first time in the two days of testimony she glowered at Pavlos Georgiou, who was smiling at her evident he leant from the dock to offe his defence counsel details about Mrs Pink's alleged sexu-

She told the court in Larnaca that her sterile marriage had ended after her husband, a chartered accountant, had had a nervous breakdown and blamed his health on three years of sexual abstinence. "I was not very active sexually and it did not have much importance for me."

defence, said: "Pavlos describes you as a woman who true?" Mrs Pink closed her

eves and said: "True." He says you are a woman who prefers sex to food, is this true as well?" Mr Economou had been in a very long asked. "No," shouted Mrs marriage. I loved Pavlos." true as well? Mr Economou Pink, shaking her head, while ten yards away her former



Pavlos Georgiou, left, with his twin brother, Petros, at whose bar he was first introduced to Mrs Pink

als that she had a three year affair with a Cypriot property dealer referred to only as Damianos, and that he left her because he was frightened by the powerfully built Mr Georgiou. "I had no affairs,"

Mrs Pink said the affair with Mr Georgiou had begun in January 1994 against her better judgment. "Pavlos asked to have an affair. I did not feel good about it because he was married. I did not feel but as I saw him a few more times my feelings for him grew. I am not in the habit of having casual relationships. I

She insisted that she had not plotted to seduce Mr Georgiou, who borrowed money from her and later

children. She said he had been

her only sexual partner in the

She denied refusing to let her lover use a contraceptive and described a night when friends and family had left some condoms on her pillow

Vic and Sheila Ruston, Mrs Pink's parents, sitting in the front row of the court, showed their irritation as defence questions portrayed their daughter as a woman of loose morals who enjoyed making an exhibition of herself singing in pubs with her friends. Mrs Pink, from Basildon, as she denied that, saying: Not me. I have a terrible

Mr Economou said that in September 1993 Mrs Pink was introduced to Mr Georgiou at his twin brother Petros's bar

was later blacklisted from the island. She said she was gnorant of her acquaintance's legai arms dealing.

Mrs Pink agreed that at their first meeting she had given Mr Georgion her tele-phone number but said it was six months before they had sex. In a near whisper she said they first had intercourse at Mr Georgiou's house while his wife, Martha, was receiving treatment in London for Aids, which killed her in 1994.

The test case has been brought under a law used on the island to prevent the spread of cholera, typhoid and venereal disease. The prosecution alleges that Mr Georgiou knowingly infected Mrs Pink and other women after being warned of the risks by his doctors about the dangers of

Mrs Pink said she had been gnorant about HIV even though she had worked for as a secretary at a health author ity. "I thought it was related to homosexuality or drug users.

As the second day of the trial stretched way beyond what court officials had expected, Judge Antonis Liatsos interrupted proceedings and asked why the defence was asking so much about Mrs Pink's sex life. "To test her veracity," Mr Economou replied.

After more than four hours cross-examination Mrs Pink looked tired and frail but the judge said she would have to appear again today to continue her evidence as the first witness against Mr Georgiou. He has denied "negligently" infecting her with HIV. If convicted he faces up to two years in prison and a



Larnaca court yesterday with her mother, Sylvia Ruston, and her cousin Sharon Keefe, left

'It's her fault too, why should I apologise?"

Mr Georgiou's clumsy at-

AS JANETTE PINK endured remoise for giving her the the man who is accused of infecting her with HIV treated to do so again yesterday, he smiled and said. "Why should I? It is her fault too." her with callous disregard. Pavlos Georgiou turned his it is ten months since Mrs

Pink, a divorced mother of two, left Mr Georgiou and back on Mrs Pink as she was led into the courthouse at-Larnaca, and said: "She does not exist any more for me." With a shrug of his shoulders he said: Why should I bother to look at her or talk to her? I had my head down and did not look at her because she is no longer here. She is out of of this trial."

my mind, I thought nothing when I saw her." Never once has he shown

terday. He skipped up the courtroom steps, embraced wellwishers and gripped his twin brother, Petros, in a bear

The 40-year-old fisherman returned to England to die. took delight in giving a series Her recent physical improveof local television interviews on the steps of the court, ment because of a daily regime of drugs she describes as boasting how he would escape conviction in this test case brought by the island's Attortemporary reprieve. I know I do not have long. I do not even know if I will see the end nev-General. As he swaggered towards the dock, he mocked the

tempts to avoid their courttelevision documentary made about Mrs Pink's plight: "I room confrontation when he know I will win this case and then I will tell my story, the true story. When I talk I will shake the whole of Cyprus." His doleful expression of the first day was replaced by a smirk as he watched the evident discomfiture of his

> attorney about her sex life. Sitting close by was his twin, who at one stage made a gesture of reconciliation to Mrs Pink. As the day's proceedings were halted so that she could take her medication, Petros Georgiou held out his hand, which she reluctantly shook before hurrying away as he began to speak to her. Mrs Pink said: "He came up

lover of three years as she was

questioned by his defence

to me but I told him I did not want to say anything. I have got nothing to say to him or to his family."

As she was led away by her

family, Petros Georgiou slapped her father, Victor Ruston on the back. This was not an apology because I have nothing to say sorry to her for. but she was once my friend when she lived with my broth-

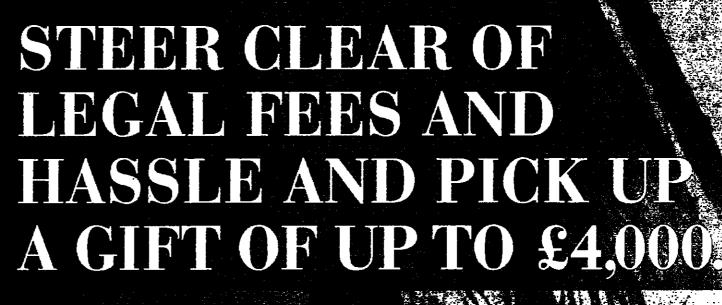
"We are two different people. Maybe we have the same body, the same face, but I have done nothing wrong. Don't forget she has made a big mistake, too. It's her fault, too, that she has Aids."

He complained in television interviews that his bar in the resort of Aiya Napa was floundering because customers were boycotting it, mistaking him for his brother. "My brother is suffering. I

am suffering. It is not just Janette. She should remember

Camelot

Camelot, the lottery operator, points out that it has a policy of full disclosure and transparency in respect of its accounts (leading article, May 13) and that it does not keep the interest on unclaimed





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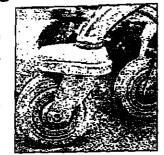
Tesco corners the supermarket in trolley technology

IT CORNERS, according to Jeremy Clarkson, "better than a Ferrari". As the Top Gear presenter gave the new machine a punishing circuit test yesterday, other drivers who look it for a spin voiced similar approval.

Trials of the prototypes. featuring a revolutionary selfcentring steering system, had begun last autumn at secret locations across Kent, unwitting customers acting as guinea pigs. Yesterday, the country's leading supermarket chain was able to unveil its latest weapon in the ongoing fight for supremacy - a trolley for the millennium.

After more than a year's research. Tesco says it has come up with "the very best in trolley technology" and is investing £4 million on a comolete refurbishment of its

They will all now be litted with a small clip over the wheels, put to the test yester-



Back wheel box holds the key to cornering

day amid much excitement by Clarkson, who obviously delighted in careering past bemused shoppers in front of

David Hughes, Tesco's chief trolley buyer, explained that the new £60 model was the product of careful market research. "After a lot of complaints by customers about erratic trolley control, we consulted the suppliers about a better design, they came up with this new steering systhe back wheels.

صكذا من الاحل

There is a little clip inside which pushes the wheel into a dead ahead position. As soon as they go out of sync with the main body of the trolley, the clip pushes the wheels back. It really comes into its own on the corners," he said.

A quick aisle test at a Tesco supermarket in west London suggested that the boasts about its cornering were wellfounded, although sticky wheels made the trolley a little slow off the mark.

Ruth Knight was certainly impressed as she shopped with the new model in the "I don't like the Sainsbury's ones, which are so frustrating I feel like hitting them. This is much better, she said. As the machine ground to a halt, a sharp kick to the stubborn back wheel got things moving again.

Susan Parker, also shopping in the store, took it in her stride. "It seems to move OK. it is very unfriendly. "Sainsbury's have the same although there is a strange

Aisle trial: after its unveiling at a store in west London yesterday. Jeremy Clarkson pushes the new trolley to the limit past the cornflakes

clicking sound coming from the wheels," she said.

Mr Hughes was less than complimentary about his rivals' trolleys. "Safeway have a very different system which they have tried on some of their models. I have heard that device as us on some of their trolleys, but we are the only ones who are fitting out the whole fleet."

Today's classic style of trolwas introduced in the 1960s by Sainsbury's, although they first appeared in British stores in the 1950s. when they were called prams

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SOMY TRACE

and had a capacity of 55 litres. The new trolley holds 225 litres and was dubbed by Clarkson the "Tesco 225".

The average store now car-ries 700 or so trolleys, rising to 1,000 in the superstores. In 1994, Safeway introduced its "easy steer" trolley with an extra bar where the handle is

to lock the front wheels and supposedly ease the trolley round corners.

Alison Macfallen, from Safeway, said that they were not introducing the easy-steer across the board. "It is one of ten designs we have. We like to give our customers choice." A spokeswoman for

Sainsbury's said: "We are testing trolleys with special steering devices in a couple of stores, but we are not introducing them in every store yet. We have cracked the steering problem by good general maintenance."

Leading article, page 23



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Coach man cleared of blame for ten deaths

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COACH driver was yesterday cleared of dangerous driving and causing the deaths of ten passengers in a crash. Phillip Crisp, 26, was found not guilty of all ten charges by a jury at Cardiff Crown Court. Mr Crisp, of Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taff, had given evidence that the brakes failed while nearing a round-

about on the A40 in July 1995 The vehicle skidded and overturned, killing eight women and two men. More than 40 were on the trip to Stratford upon Avon, including Mr Crisp's pregnant wife and son, who both survived: The prosecution alleges Mir Crisp approached the roundabout too fast and failed

to use his gears correctly. Vehicle examiners found that the rear brakes were not working and the front brakes were in good order. The coach owner was fined £750 for operating a defective vehicle. Joan Broadstock, 37, whose

husband Derek, 44, died in the crash said afterwards that changes in the law were needed to speed up investigations and action in such cases. "Nearly two years has been far too long to wait to find out what happened on the coach.".



Sir Stanley: chest pains

Stanley Matthews in hospital

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS. , ine iormer isn was admitted to hospital yesterday suffering from chest pains. Sir Stanley, 82, of Stokeon-Trent, was treated in North Staffordshire Hospital's new £1 million cardiology department, which he officially opened two weeks ago.

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Sir Stanley had been troubled by flu and bronchitis for several weeks. "He woke up this morning with pains in his chest, which were worse than usual," his wife, Mila, said. Dr John Davis, a consultant, said: "He is being observed and undergoing tests. His condition is comfortable."

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THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Wilde's lost answers show the importance of being successful

EARLY withcisms from the was his genius. His handwritpen of Oscar Wilde have stag entries span two pages in emerged on a previously un- an "Album for Confessions or emerged on a previously un- an Album for Confessions or known questionnaire which. Testes, Habits and Conviche filled out for a lark as a 21- tions" which is being offered

His answers, written long before anyone other than stu-impresario and actor, dents had heard of him. Adderley Millar Howard. He convey the vanity and verve with which his name was to

become synonymous. 🗈 To question 24, What is he wrote: "Reading my own

To question 27, asking for the character traits he most detested in men and women, he responded: "Vanity, selfesteem, conceit."

And on his own "distinguishing characteristics". Wilde noted: "Inordinate self-

miniature the flamboyance and wit of the writer who later told a customs officer that the only thing he had to declare prefigures everything that was

year-old Oxford under- for sale at Christie's in South Kensington on June 6 by a descendant of a theatrical

may have been the compiler. Rupert Neelands, book specialist at Christie's South Kensington, said that the existence your favourite occupation?". of the questionnaire had been "totally unknown". It has been in the same family for three

Nobody is sure now why Howard might have compiled it or even how he knew Wilde. They were close in age," said well known and had only

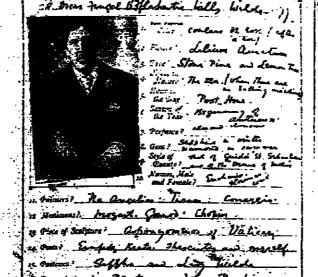
written sonnets. It's a funny coincidence that he should ask Wilde to fill in a questionnaire along with a whole load of other people who remained obscure. It to happen to him although he was so young at the time." entries was his answer to "What is your aim in life?".

He achieved all three. The questionnaire, which covers a wide range of topics, is punc-tuated with Wilde's characteristic self-mockery: he pokes fun at the very qualities or faults that he admits to having His idea of happiness is

"absolute power over men's minds, even if accompanied by toothache", while his idea of misery is "living a poor and In response to the question of his favourite "book to take

tartly: "I never take up books Question 28 - "If not your-

up for an hour", he replies



Wilde's handwritten replies to the survey: his distinguishing characteristic, he says, is "inordinate self-esteem"

self, who would you rather be?" — elicits the interesting response, "A cardinal of the Catholic Church". Wilde's bête noir is "a thorough Irish Protestant* and his dream simply "getting my hair cut".

Asked for his idea of "the sweetest words in the world", he writes simply: "Well

Favourite colour? Couleur de rose (after a row). Object in Nature? The Sea (when there are no bathing Done!" Curiously, the only diamond in summer. question which Wilde chose Painters? Fra Angelico,

your motto?"

not to answer was: "What is Turner, Correggio. Poets? Euripedes. Keats, Theocrites Poetesses? Sappho and Lady Prose authors? Plato and John Rushkin.

What book (not religious) would you part with last? My Europedes.

Many respects, writing something and . In the .

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Renaissance. What trait of character do you admire most in men? The power of attracting friends.

What is your favourite game? Snipe and lawn tennis. What are the saddest words?

Magazine, page 10

Indians bring **Bollywood** to Highlands

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

AFTER Hollywood, Bolly- lem with visas for 16 memwood is coming to the bers of Dayavanti Pictures Scottish Highlands. An In- until Alex Salmond, the dian blockbuster movie.: described as an action- leader stepped in to help packed romantic drama, raising the issue in the starts filming there this. House of Commons. He

Arzoo, translated as desire, stars leading Indian actors, has a script in Hindi and will cost £2 million to make. It will be screened. ence of 900 million people.

Highlands Film Commission said that so many Indian sites had been feathe Indian film industry that it was looking for alternative locations. The dramatic scenery in the Highlands had captured its imagination.

With many more Indian directors and producers exressing interest in filming in Scotland, the commission expects two or timee Indian movies a year to be made there for the next few years. Arzoo has been made possible by Tony Hussain, a Dundee restaurateur and part-time film impresario. This is a dream come true for me and is a tremendous boost for Scotland and will bring much-needed money into deprived areas of the country," he said.

He plans another four Indian films to be shot in Scotland, and the British Film Commission is liaising with numerous other leading Indian production companies. The shoot was almost delayed by a prob-

paging everyone who

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Scottish National Party said the film would boost the local economy.

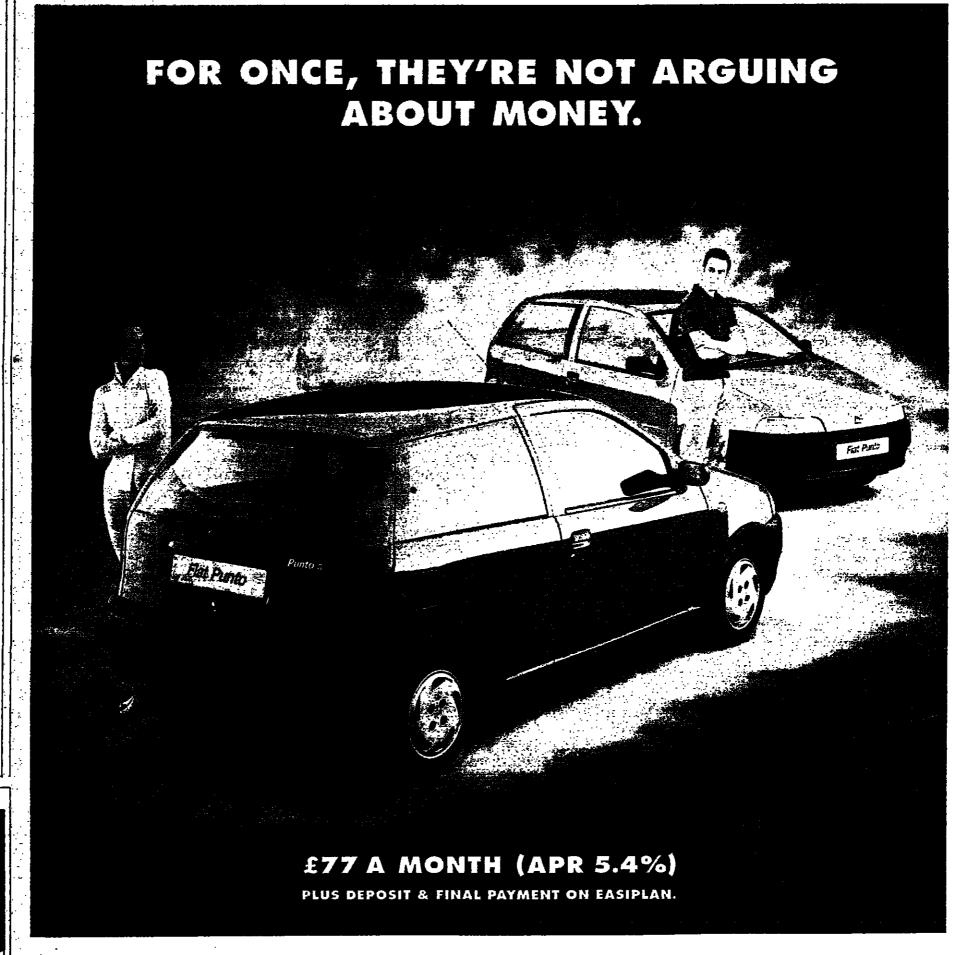
Filming, under the Indithat the film premiere will and Edinburgh. "When Jones films, playing the

villain," he said. Graham Ireland of the Highland commission, who has helped to bring Dayavanti to Scotland said: "Although Scotland has proved to be a top Hollywood location in recent years, with Rob Roy. Braveheart and Loch Ness, this decision can only boost Scotland's' profile world-

British Film Commission said: "We have handled at least six big Indian inquiries. Some are still in development."

an director Lawrence more than a month in throughout Asia to an audi- various locations in Dundee and the Highlands. An A spokesman for the 80-strong production crew complete with a team of chefs to cater for the actors. tured in films made by Mr Hussain, who is also Bollywood - the name for acting in the film, hopes be held on the same day in November in both Bombay Asian people see the stars who are coming to Scotland, they will go mad. We have got Madhuri Dixit and Ashkay Kumar jetting in, as well as Amrush Puri. who was in the Indiana

A spokeswoman for the



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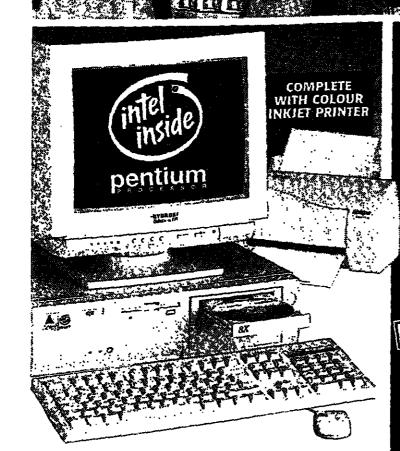
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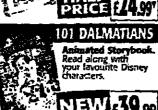
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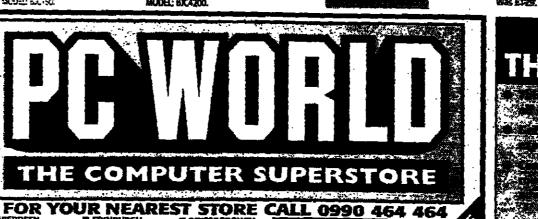
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 24 1997

Labour pledges to close child abuse loophole

THE Government has prom- despite being told of the ofised to close a legal loophole that allowed local authorities to continue sending young boys to a foster carer despite knowing he had a conviction which is to be taken up by the knowing he had a conviction withmal currently investigation indecent assault. ing allegations of widespread Roger Saint, 50, was failed abuse among boys homes in yesterday for 62 years at. North Wales in the 1970s and Chester Crown Court for what 1980s.

Mr Justice Laws called per- Paul Boateng, a junior sistent and determined sear health minister, said: "We al abuse of boys over a 13-year

Six social services departments placed children with Saint, who worked in children's homes around the country, despite a conviction in 1972 for indecently assaulting a 12-year-old boy. He had

been fined £15.
Two authorities, Tower Hamlets, in east London, and North Tyneside continued sending children to Saint and his wife Carol despite knowing of the spent conviction. Clwyd County Council, now defunct, had also allowed him to continue as a member of its fostering and adoption panel

fence. The case has provoked a fierce debate about the respon-*sibilities of local authorities. which is to be taken up by the

will be taking immediate steps to close this loophole. If you have got a past curviction for abusing children, you will not in future be allowed to have the care of fostering, or adopt

Saint, of Llwyn lolyn, Cefn-ddwysarn, near Bala, north Wales, admitted ten charges of indecent assault involving nine children. Two of the offences happened while he was deputy warden of a children's home in West Kirby. and the others were carried out on children in his care, to whom, said the judge, he had been a father figure.

For 12 years, from 1973, he

worked at a children's home in Manchester before taking charge of the residential school in West Kirby. Since then he had been a selfemployed professional carer. Authorities in Tower Hamlets, North Tyneside and Clwyd, North Yorkshire, Greenwich and Cheshire placed children

in his care. The court was told that in 1978 Saint was approved as a foster parent by Clwyd social service. In 1987 he was appointed to its fostering and adoption panel. On neither occasion did he disclose the 1972 conviction. Checks had been run but the offence did not come to light.

Michael Farmer, QC, for the prosecution, said the council became aware of it but the decision was made to keep the information within a small number of people in social services due to its "sensitive nature*.

Tower Hamlets interviewed Saint in 1990 about his previous conviction. He told them because he had been in a state

The view of Tower Hamlets was that this was an isolated incident a number of years previously. It was decided he should continue," said Mr Farmer. He said North Tyneside became aware of the offence but, because he had a successful record with children and nobody had complained, the conviction had been judged to be not

One authority, North York-shire, said it had approved Saint as a foster parent and placed four young people with him and his wife, a decision it now regretted.

Bob Lewis, president of the Association of Directors of

think we should be waiting for the law to change. I think it is incumbent on myself and other directors of social services to make sure that our practice already reflects that



Local authorities sent boys into the care of Roger Saint, 50, a known child abuser

Cook backs veterans' demand to **Japanese**

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK is today expected to give his support to the campaign for compensation from Japan for British veterans who were prisoners of war in Japanese labour camps. The Foreign Secretary is meeting his Japanese counterpart. Yukihiko Ikeda, and will raise the veterans' de-

mands with him. Members of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association have been calling on Japan to give every survivor, or his widow, \$14,000 and to make a full apology for the ill treatment they suffered.

Mr Cook will remind the Japanese Foreign Minister of the depth of feeling on the part of the veterans. As a further sign that he is anxious to see developments on this issue. Derek Fatchett, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has invited members of the veterans' association to see him on

Ministers to hold talks over alcopops

By James Landale POLITICAL REPORTER

THE government ministers investigating the sale and promotion of alcopops are to hold urgent talks with the drinks industry.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, ordered an inquiry last weekend into the marketing of the sweet-flavoured and alcoholic drinks so as to attract young people. The ministerial team, chaired by George Howarth a Home Office minister, which met for the first time yesterday, expressed con-

said. Those cynical manufact, architect of the BBC's plans turers and retailers who con- to digital services and subtinue to act irresponsibly threaten the whole industry. We will be holding orgent talks with representatives from the drinks industry and will be demanding swift action. If we are not satisfied with their response we are

prepared to go further." The Wine and Spirit Association said it was keen to assist lous manufacturers" who nored the industry's code of conduct. Alcohol Concern. which campaigns against alcohol abuse, also welcomed the move by ministers.

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Yentob is appointed super-chief of BBC TV

By CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ALAN YENTOB was yesterday made the new super-director of the BBC, given overall charge of BBCl, BBC2 and the new digital services. The corporation said that his promotion from Director of Programmes to Director of Television was part of a drive to "beef up" the management structure of BBC Broadcast for the new

The appointment makes Mr Yentob one of the most cern over under age drinking powerful men at the BBC and said the Government was and effective deputy to Will determined to end the promo Wyatt, the chief executive of tion of alcopops to under 188.

BC Broadcast. David Docherty, regarded as the

Mr Yentob's deputy with particular responsibility for iews services. The appointments came after Michael Jackson, the

former Director of Television and BBC! Controller, left to Channel 4. Mr Yentob's job bilities than Mr Jackson's. Mr Yentob and Mr Wyatt

are preparing to appoint a BBC1 Controller. A source said: "We are expecting an internal appointment and a ngish candidate."

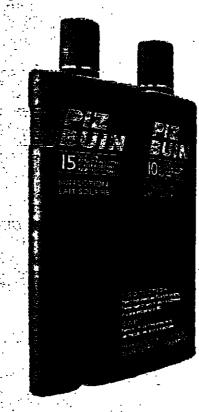
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Sailors advised to steer clear of Albanian waters

Pirates drive flotilla holidays to safer seas

TOUR operators are cancelling sailing holidays off northern Corfu because of the growing threat from heavily armed Albanian pirates.

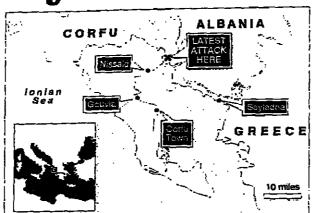
The latest victims of the bandits were a young Welsh couple, Ian Baxter and Saily Forest. Four men armed with rifles circled them in a speed-boat on Tuesday and forced them to moor in an isolated Albanian cove. where they were robbed and their rented

yacht stripped. Keith Hedley, a businessman from Kent, was shot dead on his yacht at Gouvia last September after tackling Albanians who were trying to steal his inflatable dinghy.

Howard Craddock of Arte-

mis Holidays, who rented the 28ft yacht to Mr Baxter and Miss Forest, said yesterday: They ignored warnings to stay away from Albanian waters. There has always been the odd incident but now it is worse because the bandits are more heavily armed. The men stole everything, cash. credit cards and all the kit off my boar. The couple were left with nothing but they were unhurt and have gone off sailing further south.

"We are warning people to stay away from the Albanian coast and certain places on the



aries for florillas so that they

do not overnight in northern

bays on Corfu. We are advis-

ing charter clients to do the

same and to keep out of the

north Corfu Channel and

away from the northern part

of the Greek mainland coast near the Albanian border.

panies in Corfu that hire out

yachts do not warn clients of

the dangers because they don't

A spokesman for Sailing

Holidays, London, said: "We

were going to do a north Ionian cruise this season but

we have changed our plans

and will go further south

instead, away from the prob-

robbed this week were asking

want to frighten them."

"Unfortunately, many com-

Greek mainland close to the border, such as Sayiadha."

Upheaval in Albania and easy availability of arms have encouraged the gangs to increase their attacks. They have been plundering Greek ports for speedboats to use for smuggling guns. drugs and

refugees to Europe.
The turbulent state, which came close to anarchy after the collapse of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes in January, is less than two miles from Corfu's north-astern tip. The Greek Navy recently sent four patrol boats with machineguns and a helicopter into the area.

Mike Mosely, owner of Templecraft in Brighton, said: "We have had to revise itiner-

The Foreign Office advised great care" in the Corfu Channel, "Vessels should keep well away from the Albanian coast and stay overnight in harbours where boats can be

Britons make up the highest proportion of visitors to Corfu and also the island's largest resident foreign community, numbering about 5,000.

Owners of holiday homes on the island have been victims of the gangs: speedboats belonging to Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury have been stolen. Last summer Club Med holidaymakers in the northern resort of Nissaki had to take cover when bandits exchanged fire with securityguards as they tried to steal two speedboats.

Tour operators said that clients were not at risk as long as they heeded the Foreign Office advice. They hope that the situation will improve after the Albanian elections next month. Noel Josephides, of Sunvil, said: "We have had a few calls for advice, but we do not consider that the situation is a cause for alarm. You are more likely to get murdered in London than Corfu."



Alana at Waterford Heath: young people should get involved with helping the environment, she says

Alana, 13, battles to save grizzled skipper

A GIRL aged 13 has become the youngest member of a committee formed to preserve a wildlife haven near her home. But Alara Shepherd has better credentials that most adults for the job - she is the Young Environmentalist of the Year.

The site, a gravel pit as Waterford Heath, Hertfordshire, shelters about 20 species of butterfly, including one. to be extinct in the county. Alana, of Waterford, said yesterday. "I want to keep a log of what is happening on the site. I remember the heath as being somewhere it was too dangerous to play, but already you can go for walks there and watch the wildlife. I am determined to help the environment

and I feel strongly that young people like me should get involved." The committee on which Alana

serves is part of the Changing Places Programme supported by a grant of £22.1 million from the Millennium Commission, matched by a similar sum raised from 60 other organisations by

Mark Fishpool, community projects manager for Groundwork in Hertfordshire, said: "Our first priority was to get local people involved. Alana has a key role to play in getting the message

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Smoker takes fight against train ban to House of Lords

A SMOKER who has mounted a legal challenge over his right to indulge his habit on the London to Brighton express train is to take his fight

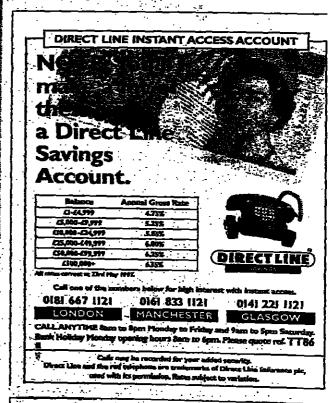
the train. Smoking was banned in 1993 and two years smoking in the buffet car and fined ElO in Brighton.

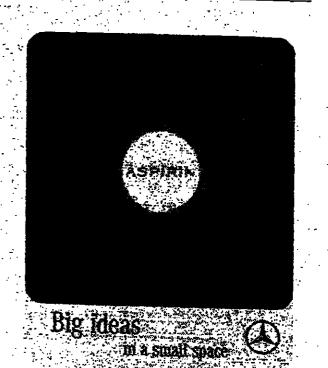
In July last year, Mr that there is an important Boddington, 43, who owns a point of law to be debated. impose the ban under the terms of its own bylaws. Lord Justice Auld said there was

whether the prohibition was "so obviously unlawful or patently imreasonable as to be bad on its face".

Connex South which took over the service from BR; won an injunction at Brighton, already faces legal the High Court in April bar-bills approaching £30,000 ting the 60 a day commuter after pursuing through the from lighting up on its trains courts his right to smoke on Now in a private hearing. three Lords of Appeal - Steyn, Nicholls of Birkenhead and ago he was prosecuted for Hope of Craighead - have granted Mr Boddington leave to appeal to the Lords, ruling

market in Tooting, south London, failed to persuade two High Court judges that particular whether someone British Rail had no right to such as Mr Boddington can, as defence to a criminal charge, raise the contention that an administrative decinothing wrong with the bysion made pursuant to powers
law, although "there was conferred by a bylaw is outscope for legal debate" on side the law.







New MPs put politeness on political agenda

By JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL REPORTER

THE House of Commons is reeling. Ten days into the new Parliament, the 243 fresher MPs - 57 of them women are making their presence left. politeness reigns as the poli-ucs of the bearpit is treated. with disdain.

The difference can be seen both in the Chamber and outside. MPs say the new women members have had a civilising influence on the more confrontational style of some of their older, male colleagues. At the same time, the police, attendants and staff who make Westminster run have expressed their delight at being treated with courtesy.

A policeman who has

worked in the Commons for many years said: "It's just nice to be treated like a human

In the Chamber, MPs have noticed a more consensual approach, especially in the first new-style Prime Ministers' Question Time on Wednesday. Judith Church, who became Labour MP for Dagenham in 1994, said the change in style could be put down to the new women as much as any change in

"Prime Minister's Ques-tions was much more fluid," she said. "It was more like a modern dialogue and not a bear garden and I am sure the

women had an impact on it." Some of the new women were shocked by the heckling of Tory MPs. They came out asking who they were and whether they always behaved like that," Ms Church said. "They were quite shocked by the childish behaviour." The heckling will become "increasingly unfashionable", she believes, simply because the women on the Labour benches

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will not respond in kind. Lorna Fitzsimons (Lab. Rochdale) said: "We have definitely changed the tone and the whole feel of the House. There is a realisation that it should be a modern working environment. That could mean both a creche but also changes to some of the arcane

Julia Drown (Lab, Swindon South) said: "I was expecting quite a lot of 'yah boo' behaviour but not so much. Already that is changing and it does feel exciting to be part of this change. It's not possible for things to keep going as they connected. Some new MPs are

NHS finance director, - said that women brought common sense to the Chamber "We don't go in for all that tub-thumping at the dispatch box." Old habits die hard, though. among the men-One male Labour

MP grumbled: "It's a bit like a cocktail party in the division lobbies. It's been all very euphonic with a lot of women in bright,

colourful clothes. The new women are also making a practical difference. Plans are being drawn up for new lavatories in the division lobbies, which now have facilities only for men. Several new lavatories are expected to be built during the summer recess. Pressure is also growing

With the present Commons



CAROLINE SPELMAN (C, Meriden) is one of four new women on her party's back benches. She began her search for a secretary before the election, interviewing several who worked for retiring Tory MPs. With experienced staff, she acquired an office, desk and telephone more quickly than most MPs. "What I didn't want was three weeks when I was offering below-standard service to my constituents." The 39-year-old former already helped one constituent with a complaint about police treatment. "We were able to intervene quickly and sort it out." Although Mrs Speiman rented a flat near the Commons in expectation of the late nights, she was surprised by the voting procedure. "I hadn't appreciated that a lopm vote might be in three parts and would not end until 11.30pm." She has found it helps to work closely with the other new Tory women. "We are all starting from the same position."

barber expected to accept early retirement this summer, work

will also begin on a unisex

hairdressing salon, which is

likely to be open by the

autumn. The Lady Members'

Room is very cramped and the

new women MPs want

another room as well. De-

mand is also growing for a proper shop in the Commons.

The gift shop sells chocolates, wine and souvenirs but noth-

ing practical such as tights or

For most of the new MPs.

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their colleagues.

MPs against being "seduced"

division lobby system as offer-



LEMBIT ÖPIK (Lib Dem, Montgomeryshire) has had more trouble than most new MPs in making himself at home in the House of Commons. The officials cannot get his name right. The 32-year-old former personnel officer, whose parents are Estonian, has had three versions on his security pass: Opik Lembik. Opik Lembit and, finally, Lembit Opik. He is now fighting to get the umlaut on the O. He does, however, have an office and a desk, but he has to share his telephone with another MP and six staff. The Commons has, however, "lived up and down" to his expectations. The sense of vitality is here. There are a lot of very driven people. But all of a sudden, there are 659 people in one place who are used to being chiefs in their own patches and they are having to learn to be indians. The most exciting thing is that there are a huge proportion of people who feel that there is a real chance for change. Sometimes I am sitting in the Chamber and I think I am watching history."



OONA KING (Lab. Bethnal Green and Bow) is horrified by some of the arcane procedures and believes that new MPs deserve more information and guidance. Nobody tells you anything. You sink or swim. I am paddling at the moment . . . The things that strike me as most absurd are the procedural points to do with voting. There were many of us in the lobbies aghast as we stood there and walked through. We had to do it three times last night, each vote taking 25 minutes. One MP calculated that he had spent 94 hours standing in the lobby during the last Parliament." Ms King. 29. a former trade union official, would like the Commons to consider electronic voting. She is irritated by the practice of MPs shouting "hear, hear", rather than clapping, which is not allowed. Although she has an office, all is not well: "I have my feet under the table but no phone on the desk. I think it is amazing that they give MPs all these perks but no phone."



CHRISTOPHER LESLIE (Lab, Shipley) is the baby of the House at 24. He wasted no time in seeking the advice of the Father of the House, Sir Edward Heath, "He told me to pace myself because I am going to be here for a long time. Things have been so rushed I think I have ignored his advice already . . . It has been quite a whirlwind. I took the plunge and delivered my maiden speech last Thursday. It was okay. The chamber seems smaller than it looks on television. It's quite cosy and it has good acoustics. I have been more nervous speaking elsewhere. But having done it. I feel a bit blooded and feel a bit more confident." Mr Leslie already has an office. a desk and a telephone, but he is struggling to keep up with his flood of mail. He has found a secretary who will join him in a few weeks. He includes among his other worries his hotel bills and avoiding the constant temptation of the Commons bars. "My constituents have to come before my



RUTH KELLY (Lab. Bolton West) has an extra difficulty in getting used to Labour's crowded back benches: she is heavily pregnant. "It is not very comfortable. especially if you have backache." But the 29-year-old former Bank of England economist has had the benefit of a sisterly welcome from the Tory former Prisons Minister Ann Widdecombe, "She showed me around the House and the tea rooms. She was extremely pleasant ... It's wonderful to be part of such a large new intake. There is a tremendous sense of solidarity." Although pleasantly surprised by the cosy. friendly atmosphere two Tory MPs wrote to congratulate her on her maiden speech — she has been dismayed by the shortage of office space and having to endure the cramped and sweaty division lobbies. The one thing I find most noticable is the antiquated voting system. I did not realise that a 10pm vote means it could be 11pm before

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Blair draws blank in search for Church MP By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

TONY BLAIR, whose ministerial team contains many active in his efforts to appoint an MP to represent the interests of the Church of England in Parliament.

Several weeks after the last ministerial red box was allocated, there is still no decision on who will become the Second Church Estates Commissioner. The delay is an embarrassment to Mr Blair. whose election victory has coincided with a spiritual revival in the Labour Party.

Eight members of the Cabinet belong to the Christian Socialist Movement. Up to half of the ministerial team are regular church-goers and are happy to talk about the role God plays in their politics.

Last week Mr Blair offered the unpaid post, which requires answering questions in the Commons once a month. Stuart Bell, the MP for Middlesbrough. Mr Bell. who was overlooked for a ministerial job, rejected the post.

The role of the Commissioner, who represents the 95 church commissioners who manage the Church's £2.7 billion assets, has become increasingly important. The power to spend income earned from the assets is to be transferred from the commissioners to a central council chaired by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. It is



social security post

part of the most radical reforms to church government for 150 years. Many bishops privately oppose the reforms because they fear it could weaken the links between the

Church and the State. Frank Field, the Labour MP for Birkenhead who is a past member of the Church's House of Laity, was the favourite to take over the increasingly high-profile post but instead he took the post of Minister of State at the Department of Social Security.

The odds have shortened on Peter Pike, the MP for Burnley, who is a devout Anglican, being offered the job. But Mr Pike, dubbed Worzel Gummidge by colleagues after an attempt was made to have his appearance debated in Burnley council chamber, is not regarded as a great advertise-

ment for new Labour. Ann Widdecombe, the Torv MP who converted to Roman Catholicism over the ordination of women, attacked the

She said: "Given the parade Tony Blair makes of Christianity, I am surprised that the spokesman for the Church Commissioners was not his first appointment instead of his last.

One senior Church figure said last night: "We need a strong man in that job. In the next five years the archbishops will be trying hard to weaken the influence of the Commissioners. The Second Church Estates Commissioner has to resist that pressure. But the trouble is all the strong candidates have been given ministe-

A senior Labour source said: "Stuart Bell was the ideal candidate. He is tough, he is his own man and he can read a balance sheet. If he has turned it down I cannot think of anvone else to do it."

The new Labour Christians Chancellor, who is the son of a Presbyterian preacher, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Jack Straw, the

Carey opens museum at Augustine's abbey

By JOHN YOUNG

A El MILLION museum on the site of St Augustine's abbey in Canterbury will be opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

The museum has been built by English Heritage with the aid of a \$686,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to mark the 1.400th anniversary of the arrival of St Augustine in England. St Augustine founded the abbey as part of his mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. The museum contains an

outstanding collection of artefacts, most on display for the first time. They include a striking array of decorated medieval stonework and tiles. shrines and reliquaries. A section of the museum is devoted to surviving artefacts from the scriptorium (writing

room) and library. The museum opens to the public on Monday (daily (0am to 6pm until October 31, 10am to 4pm November I to March 31: admission 52, 5150 pen-sioners and students, 51 child-

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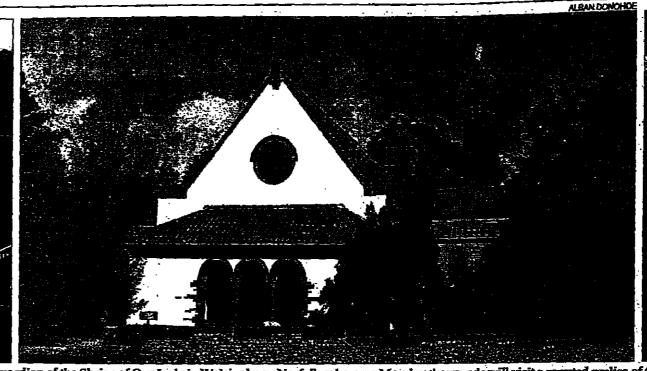
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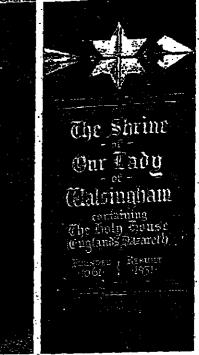


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Barbara Marlow is a guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk, where on Monday thousands will visit a reputed replica of the Virgin Mary's house

ur mission is to celebrate reasons to be cheerful

ONE of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is service of thanksgiving in Canter-joy and, as I look around at my bury Cathedral for our Christian feilow worshippers in church. I often wonder where it is.

Would not a more joyful and celebratory atmosphere encourage those searching for a deeper meaning to life to pursue the path of Christian discipleship? For mission to be effective we need not only faith and conviction but joy and hope an optimistic outlook on life.

That certainly seems to have been the attitude of St Augustine, sent by Pope Gregory I from Rome to preach the Gospel in England. We celebrate the 1,400th anniversary of his arrival on these shores over this weekend. On Monday, the Archbishop of Canterbury will lead a

heritage. And joy will be at the heart

Mission is to let others know what

On Bank Holiday Monday there gather at the Shrine of Our

we stand for, hence, the modern idea of mission statements which tell others what the parish, school or community is trying to achieve. To do this we need to witness to our belief, not in a party-political or show-off way, but by gently and faithfully allowing others to see what makes us tick and how God helps us to be ourselves.

is another mission celebration taking place. Thousands of pilgrims will gather at the Shrine of Com-Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk for

Barbara Marlow

the pilgrimage marking the anniversary of Augustine's arrival and St Columba's death. This is a joyful occasion with a Mass in the abbey grounds followed by a procession of witness. The whole village is en fête in an atmosphere reminiscent of the Marian festivals in other parts of Europe, but we are not always blessed with the same weather.

Like Augustine, Mary responded with joy and faith to the task God gave to her. Perhaps she is one of family upsets, joy is not the first

thing that strikes us as important. But in the midst of all trouble, God the best examples of the strength that comes from the joy of serving the Lord. The celebrations in Walsingham and Canterbury are the witness of thousands of people to the mission of two individuals who, with dignity and joy, have affected the lives of so many others. It is appropriate that next week's pilgrims will be welcomed at Walsingham. We are all pilgrims in life together. Whatever our back-ground, understanding, life and visions for the future, God wants to

Not always easy, When we encounter worldwide calamities or

share the joy of living with us and our task is to share that joy with

has an amazing way of letting a little joy shine through the dark-ness. With faith and humour it becomes a positive force which helps us to understand the way God wants us to serve him. Like Mary, we can say with joy in our hearts: "I am ready to do whatever he

☐ Barbara Marlow, a retired head teacher, is the first woman to be appointed a guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsing

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Panic at Manchester protest camps gives way to 'normal' life: mud, razor wire, curry and poetry

Where middle-class and Middle Earth collide

smell of wild gartic dominate each waking hour for the 80. protesters under siege in the Bollin valley. After four months of phoney war, evic-tions at the site of Manchester Airport's proposed second runway are in their fifth day since halliffs and James Bondlike men in black clothes and balactavas, believed to be police, raided the controlly named Ziontree and Jimi Hendric camps. Wild Garlic

camp fell two days later. The initial panic and siege mentality have given way to what passes for normal life in the camp called Flywood Babulon Control of the call ylon Council Estate, where the perimeter fence is a nylon tripcord and bags of urine hang from barbed wire. Alongside one swings a plaque bearing a Wordsworth poem: "Vain is the glory of the sky . . . "

This ancient woodland on the runway site resembles nothing so much as a politically correct The Lord of the Flies as mud-coated youngsters flit through trees and launch raiding parties. The mood changes hourly, depending on the availability of alcohol and the level of activity by bailiffs in black, white, orange and fluorescent yellow, as they flounder in the rain-sodden red clay, trying to clear the last protesters from Ziontree, Hendrix and Garlic Visible

Stephen Farrell went underground to uncover the daily routine of activists resisting runway eviction



foot. All efforts to keep my

workclothes intact were

Sandte

"This masonry

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your home

against the

elements.33

paint will

depression sets in when the crashing sound of a large tree reaches residents of Flywood and the camps known as River Rats and Sir Cliff Richard,

wrecked when an attempt to cross from the Cakehole Tunnel to Sir Paul McCartney's OBE, Vegan Revolution. Cavern necessitated a 30ft-The beauty of the hillsides slide and messy bout of belies their treachery underbarbed-wire limbo-dancing. A

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2.5 litres. Was £21.49

Mupper Dave, Matt and the pregnant former nurse Denise raised my spirits briefly but failed to salvage the shredded white shirt and heavy-duty

By day three a man from The Guardian, a veteran of several protests, who sits at the Cakehole Tunnel entrance playing Vaughan Williams tapes, agreed on the need for a brief trip beyond the 10ft perimeter fence to stock up with supplies. We were joined by the *Times* photographer. who had just spend a terrifying night in an oak during a thunderstorm with a metal shopping trolley placed above his head. "It's there to lock on to when the balliffs come," explained a protester known

Getting out past the security cordon proved easy: they simply opened the gate, grinned as we waded through a quagmire and let us disappear towards Wilmslow Getting back into the camps has proved far harder since the evictions began. Most of the protesters' efforts are devoted to sneaking food, water, reinforcements and returners over, under, through and around the miles of unbroken, patrolled fencing.

A two-mile trek across fallen willow and yet more garlic brought us opposite River

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Camp life "completely warps your sense of reality", said a protester. "I come from a middle-class background"

Rats and the most vulnerable stretch of fence, patrolled by "Zero the Red Hat" and his junior white-hatted guards. The Guardian man opted to wade chest-deep through the River Bollin, with guards flanking him on each bank "We'll have you, mate", until he reached a point beyond which, by some unspoken mutual agreement, the

guards will not pass. The

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MASONRY PAINT

alternative and drier route runs 20ft up an elm, into a nylon-rope walkways into the safety of River Rats, where a vegan curry awaits.

A few minutes later the same security men who foliowed Guardian assidiously were confronted by a young female television presenter. Oh, let us in love, I could be your sister," proved

the magic password. A walk through the woods is like a stroll through Tolkein's Middle Earth: one minute you meet white boilersuit-clad baithe moment? liffs discreetly assessing the Others, however, admit the trees at their next target, and a few yards further you encoun-

waist, digging defence trench-es in the midday heat. A few hours later, fully clothed once more, she is back up her tree giving a rational and coherent account of tactics and motivation among the cave-dwellers.

ter Animal, the 17-year-old

Colchester schoolgirl from the

A30 protest in Devon, daubed

in green and naked above the

We are keeping it together. If they get us off this part of the route, we will go straight to the other four-fifths they haven't fenced. This runway is not

woodland. We'll keep going, we are a lot more jolly and fluffy [peaceful] than siegey at

wait is getting to them. Melanie sits in Battlestar Galactica, a vertical shanty town at Flywood, reading Henry David Thoreau's 1849 essay Civil Disobedience.

Man, 23, an articulate tunneller christened Posh Pixie, admits that the bizarre lifestyle gives him a sense of dislocation. "It does completely warp your sense of reality. I come from a middle-class background, and when I go wiping my dishwasher-clean fork on my trousers at the dinner table in front of my





Muppet Dave at the entrance to Cakehole Tunnel

Waite remonstrates with sheriff's staff

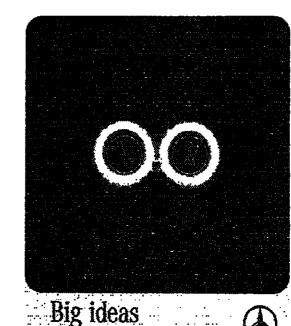
TERRY WAITE, the former Beirut hostage, remonstrated with staff working for the man in charge of evicting the protesters yesterday.

Mr Waite, who was patron of the Manchester Airport Joint Action Group, the principal objectors to the second runway, marched with 25 local people to the site — once policed by his father — in the Bollin Valley only to be told he alone would be let in.

He told representatives of Randal Hibbert, the Under Sheriff of Cheshire, that he was denying people their democratic rights. Later he told protesters through the perimeter fence: "In 20 years' time it wreaked such environment damage who would be thrown

in jail — not the protesters." Mr Waite added afterwards that the legal process had been loaded in favour of the developers from the start: "We're not in dispute with those who carry out the evictions — it's ironic that the runway site was policed by my father 50 years ago - but with the process that allows such destructive developments to be built."





in a small space

league was referring to Britain's glacial relations with the EU in recent years and to the chances of a breakthrough in the negotiations for a new Union treaty in Amsterdam next month.

Wim Kok, the left-wing Dutch Prime Minister and host of the Noordwijk summit. performance of Mr Blair and lectured his colleagues on his IN ROME

TWO electricians accused of burning down La Fenice opera house in Venice, causing £120 million damage, set fire to the baroque 18th-century building because they faced late penalty payments of no more than £6,000, police said yesterday.

Felice Casson, the prosecutor, said attempts by Enrico Carella, 27, and his cousin, Massimiliano Marchetti. 26, to construct "plausible alibis" for the evening of the fire 16 months ago had been exposed by examination of their mobile phone

Signor Casson ordered the arrest

of the men. both from the Venice area, on Thursday evening. They of the fire, and allegedly deny the charges. Their small firm ed the alarm as they left. of electrical contractors, which emplayed six people, had been hired to carry out rewiring as part of the theatre's renovation. But they had fallen four months behind with the work, and faced penalty payments of more than £100 a day — enough to sink a business burdened with

debts of £60,000. They were desperate. They could not pay the phone bills or their employees' salaries," one police source said. Police believe the two may not have intended to gut the building but only to start a small fire. They were the last to leave La

La Repubblica said it was appalling that working men with roots in Venice had set fire to an "international cultural jewel" for a "paltry sum", just as separatists with a similar background had mounted an armed assault on the bell tower on St Mark's Square this month. "Venice belongs to the world," the paper said. The two have been charged with arson and face jail sentences of 15 years each.

Gioacchino Termini, the investigating magistrate, said that three weeks before the fire the electricians had left an oxyacetylene torch

Fenice on January 29, 1996, the day burning, in an apparent initial of the fire, and allegedly disconnect-arson attempt. The day before the fire, Signor Carella was discovered by a night watchman on the theatre roof - where the fire started - and when challenged said he had been watching a woman undressing in a

house opposite. Signor Termini said he had proof that on the day of the fire the two men left the theatre at 9pm, half an hour later than they claimed. Police said the two men had tried to construct an alibi by claiming that they had dinner at the house of Signor Carella's girlfriend. But his mobile phone records showed that Signor Carella had telephoned the woman nine times, and she had not

Mobile telephone records 'expose arsonists of Venice opera house' phoned one of his employees be-tween 8.45pm and 9.15pm to ask whether any of the welding torches had been left on by mistake".

But at that stage no one knew of the fire, and the alarm was raised at 9.10pm. The roof collapsed into the stalls at 10pm, and the resulting inferno gutted the ornate interior.

Defence lawyers said the evidence was circumstantial. Signor Carella said the firm was "only two months behind schedule" and had been promised an extension until March 1996. Other firms involved in the renovation were even further behind and any of them could have burnt down the theatre".

EU leaders enthuse over 'fresh start' from Blair

La Fenice smoulders after the January 1996 blaze

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NOORDWIJK, THE NETHERLANDS

AN AIR of unreality descended on the Dutch seaside town retary. "I am convinced of the sincerity of the two British of Nourdwijk yesterday as European leaders performed a really have another language rite of exceeding rarity: they when they talk about Europe. gave a hero's welcome to a I have a very positive feeling about their intentions." British Prime Minister and listened when he lectured

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, hailed his Such is the relief at the removal of John Major's British counterpart's pragmatism, which he contrasted to Mr Major's ideological approach. Kind words also came from Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, who had been irked by Britain's claim this month that it had joined the EU's high table alongside France and Germany. At least for the duration of a

> ers could not get enough of Mr Blair's uplifting utterances about new Europe for the new millennium" as he set out Britain's "bottom line" for the treaty negotiation at the Amsterdam summit and called for a new focus on the nature of the Union. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and all the other leaders at the Dunes House hotel nadded in

one-day summit, the EU lead-



Helmut Kohl of Germany, President Chirac of France, and Wim Kok and Hans van Mierlo of The Netherlands, with Tony Blair yesterday

touch with its citizens. They were too polite to note that an identical lament has been de rigueur for all EU leaders since the Maastricht treaty

was finished in 1992. Mr Blair's winning aura was almost palpable when fellow leaders jostled to have their photograph taken with him in the conference room. ine ne sought by colleagues facing Robin Cook, the Foreign Sec-conviction that the EU had lost imminent electoral tests, ac-

cording to his aides. The French parliamentary elections start tomorrow, Mr Bruton has just called a general election and Herr Kohl goes to the polls next year.

Mr Blair's aides noted that the Government's hefty majority gave him the clout to prescribe remedies for Europe's ills. "This majority er," said one, Continental officials also noted a degree of irony because Mr Blair's credibility is bolstered by Britain's economic success, generated under the Conservatives. Despite sniping against what much of the Continent sees as Britain's social failures, the rest of the EU is increasingly accepting the merits of the 'Anglo-Saxon" market model for the economy.

business. At a session with Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, Mr Blair impressed officials by speaking without notes or any assistance. "He really knew the dossier. He was extremely well prepared," said Klaus Van der Pas, a spokes

officials were grundling that the honeymoon would end-soon if Mr Blair refused to budge on key areas such as centralising control of frontiers. "It sounds like eternal Albion ... Thatcher and Major with a nicer facer said a

man for Mr Santer. And the Others serised the imakings For all the indulgence overed of comptonise at Aristerdam. Mr Blair's intense homework the verdict on his "tough love" ground despite the thetoric on the European way of approach was mixed. Some about sovereignty.

Israel 'to be nuclear for years'

Jerusalem: The director of the atomic energy commission in the Israeli Prime Minister's office was quoted vesterday as saying that years of democra-cy were needed in the Arab states before Israel could give up its nuclear capability (Christopher Walker writes). Haaretz said his remarks. delivered on the eve of the general election last May, had only now been made available. "Before Israel agrees to Arab demands," Haaretz quoted Gideon Frank as say-

Amnesty plea to Mugabe

ing, "many years of full diplo-matic and economic relations

must pass without a war."

Harare Amnesty International has appealed to President Mugabe of Zimbabwe in an open letter to set an example to other African heads of state and make amends for the atrocities committed by his troops in the western provinces of Matabeleland (Jan Raath: writes). The group asked him to act before hi becomes chairman of the Organisation of African Unity ned month.

Jordan to be given water

lerusalem: Israel and Jordan have resolved a two-week crisis over a deal to ease the kingdom's water shortage, Ariei Sharon, the National Infrastructure Minister, said after a meeting in Amman.The two sides agreed that until a desalination project was completed. Israel would give Jordan water, possibly from the Galilee. (Reuter)

Rare Nigeria pictures lost

New York: A rare collection of photographs of colonial Nigeria, taken by a British government official in the 1950s, was thrown mistakenly in a Virginia rubbish dump and is feared lost (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The photographs, taken by Ian Brinkworth, were to have been posted to the Smithsonian Institution.

Man catches falling child

Moscow: Irina Smirnova, 40, threw her daughter six, from a fourth-floor balcony, but a neighbour, Gocha Laoshvili. 26, ran on to his balcony and caught and saved the child, a newspaper here said. When the police tried to enter the flat, the mother, who had lost her jumped to her death. (AP)

THE 10p **ARTS** FEATURE An interview with actor A report on the Royal Keith Allen, the thinking Shakespeare Company's tour of Pakistan. woman's Oliver Reed.

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CHANGING TIMES

Iran seeks Syrian aid to bypass spy curbs

IRAN has asked Syria for permission to use its espionage infrastructure in Europe in an attempt to circumvent tighter controls on Tehran's spies, according to Western security sources (Michael Evans writes).

A senior Iranian official is understood to have made a formal proposal to Syria to ensure that Iranian spies can continue to function on European territory, using wellestablished Syrian espionage outlets.

An intelligence link between Iran and Syria would be the latest evidence of an increasing rapprochement between the two countries. In February, they signed agreements for co-operation in communications, electricity, trade, oil, transport and agriculture. A protocol was also signed for co-operation in research and development and in military

Syria and Iran are already collaborating on improving the Scud C missile, which both countries have bought from North Korea and China.

Big turnout helps poll chances of Tehran moderate

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA IRANIANS turned out in ture Minister who has the

large numbers yesterday to support of artists, intellectuals elect a new President in a and urban youths longing for fierce contest between hardline and moderate factions of the Islamic state. Both the front-runners are first time since the 1979 Islam-

ic Revolution many Iranians sense the possibility of real change. Diplomats said even if Mohammed Khatami, the moderate candidate, lost, Tehran's conservative dergy would be under pressure to address the frustrations of the people. They will have to rely on more than just the Koran and anti-Western sentiment," one envoy said.
The incumbent President

Rafsanjani, who has to step down after serving two four-year terms, told the 33 million eligible voters to cast their ballots or answer to God. Long queues were reported outside many of the 30,000 polling stations.

The large turnout was expected to boost the chances of Mr Khatami, the former Cul-

his rival, Ali Akbar Nateq Noun, the former Speaker, 54-year-old clerics, but for the alienated many by pledging a crackdown on those daring to fluit the Islamic dress code. By contrast, Mr Khatami has promised to appoint a woman. to his Cabinet. Mr Khatami was mobbed by supporters when he cast his vote in north Tehran, where

more freedom. He also has the

important women's vote after

his portrait is festooned on thousands of cars. Until Mr Khatami's entry in the contest, Mr Nateq-Nouri was expected to secure a landslide win Fears that the conservative

ciergy would do everything possible to prevent a Khatami victory forced both Ayatollah Khamenet and Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani to reassure voters that the election would be fair. If no candidate wins more than 50 per cent of the vote, the two leading candidates from a pack of four will face a run-off. possibly next Friday

Romanian military gives Dracula a whirl

FROM ROGER BOYES

DRACULA is about to bring terror back to Transylvania. Romania plans to name its new combat helicopter after the Transylvanian bloodsucker in an attempt to frighten its enemies. The AHI RO-Dracula is to be built

with the help of capital from the American Bell Helicopter Textron company in a factory in Cluj. That was the place where Vlad the Impaler—Bram Stoker's model for his lictional Dracula - stuck Transylvanian Saxons for non-payment of taxes. The sharp-ended poles pierced the body from bottom to head and the victims lined the narrow mountain roads, an example to all 15th-century tax dodgers. Similar deterrent measures were

applied to Turks.

Prince Vlad Teres (the Impaler)
was also known as Vlad Dracol (Dragon) and was regarded for centu-ries as a national hero because of the way that he checked Turkish expansion. Bram Stoker, researching his novel in the British Library, picked up

folklore about vampirism in the Romanian peasantry and attributed these qualities to Vlad. Nicolae Ceauseson. the country's Communist dictator, did not appreciate the poetic licence, especially since his critics started todraw parallels between him and Vlad. Dracula became taboo.

Now there are annual Dracula congresses, including a witches trial and a masked ball. The Dracula helicopter is the first time for many decades that the myth of Vlad has been used to scare off enemies.

The other important feature of the new helicopter is American involve-ment Romania wants to be in the first wave of Nato enlargement. However, analysts believe that it will have to stay outside the alliance for at least a

☐ Slovaks vote: Slovakia began voting yesterday in a referendum to decide whether it should be a member of the Nato alliance. Once rated as a promising candidate, it has slipped in Western esteem because of doubts about its democratic practices.



Dracula, here played by Christopher Lee: inspired a hericopter with teeth

Yeltsin picks top nuclear strategist to reform military

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A CAREER soldier, General decessor his job after only ten Igor Sergeyev, yesterday accepted what many regard as the toughest job in Russia when he was confirmed as

Defence Minister.
In a brief meeting at the Kremlin, President Yeltsin officially appointed the bespectacled General Sergeyev to his new post and named General Anatoli Kvashnin as the new Chief of the General Staff.

Despite crumbling morale, huge budget cuts and rampant corruption in the ranks, the two men have been given the near-impossible task of turning the military into a cost-effective, motivated and competent professional force by the turn of the century.

In contrast to the two last Defence Ministers, General Pavel Grachev and General Igor Rodionov, both combat soldiers who fought in Afghanistan, the new minister has never fired a shot in anger and spends his free time reading classical literature. Nevertheless, the reputation he established in a career spent in the Strategic Nuclear Forces, which he commanded for the past five years, should equip him well for the chal-

lenges ahead. With the disastrous war in Chechnya over and no obvious military threat, General Sergeyev's main enemy lies within. In pushing through reforms and attempting to slim down the bloated 1.7 million-man army, he will have to battle with Soviet-era generals opposed to change

Yuri Baturin, President Yeltsin's top defence adviser, said General Sergeyev's appointment marked a break in tradition, whereby only generals from the ground forces

made it to the very top.
"I think it is obvious that the Strategic Nuclear Forces today form the backbone of our defence," Mr Banirin, who heads the Defence Council, said. "Also, Igor Sergeyev turned out to be a very thrifty manager. Not a single kopek penny] in the Strategic Nuclear Forces was wasted. The situation is much better than the other services."

While stories about graft in the top ranks of the military are commonplace, the forces under General Sergeyev's command have had a relatively clean sheet. Western military experts also point out, with evident relief, that the

nuclear forces have maintained professional standards, long abandoned elsewhere in the army.

General Sergeyev said before his appointment that he viewed Russia's huge nuclear arsenal as its best guarantee time of cutbacks. "The Strategic Nuclear Forces can evolve into a real nucleus of Russian military might, which will ensure strategic stability in the world, deterrence and the maintenance of Russia's status as a great power." he said recently. He is also regarded with the West and has endorsed deeper cutbacks in nuclear forces set out in the Start 3 arms reduction agree-

Born to a mining family in Ukraine in 1938, he attended a naval college in the Black Sea before embarking on a 30-year career in the nuclear forces. In spite of his qualifications,

General Sergeyev's position is far from secure. Pundits were predicting yesterday that his appointment will only be a stopgap until a civilian candidate is selected.

Mr Yeltsin has demanded that a blueprint for reform be ready for dicussion by June 25. If the Russian leader is not satisfied that the military is finally prepared to reform, General Sergeyev faces an ignominious fate like that of his predecessor, who was given a public dressing down before being sacked Thursday.



President Yeltsin of Russia at the Kremlin yesterday after signing a "union treaty". The treaty sets out the terms for greater co-operation between the two Slavic neighbours, but falls well short of reintegrating the two former Soviet republies (Richard Beeston

Russia and Belarus sign union treaty

idents embraced each other like lost friends. The long-awaited document read more like a declaration of intent than the cornerstone of a marriage. "Our union is aimed at forging further

relations of brotherhood, friendship and co-operation," President Yeltsin said. Nevertheless, the document provides little in the way of concrete measures, dealing mainly with declarations about the rights of the individual and pledges to co ordinate in future on foreign policy, fighting crime and promoting security. Neither side relin-

Bavaria jails Serb for war crimes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday concluded the first war crimes trial on its soil since the postwar Nuremberg tribunal by sentencing a Bosnian Serb to five years in jail for his part

in the massacre of Muslims. The verdict, passed by a Bavarian court, underlined how entangled Germany has become in the complex Bosnian situation. The Serb. Novislav Djajic, was one of about 50 people being investi-gated by German authorities for war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia.

Hours after the verdict was announced, two German soldiers were killed and a third seriously wounded in Bosnia The shooting was apparently an accident and unconnected with the Munich trial, but to many Germans it woke dormant fears about the potential costs of Germany's growing involvement. About 3,300 German troops are based in Bosnia in the first combat deployment since the Second World War.

Earlier in the week the German - and, in particular, the Bavarian - Government came in for criticism by the United States for over-zealous attempts to repatriate to Bosnia some of the 300,000 people who sought refuge in Germany during the conflict.

"It's only a matter of time before linkages are made," a German commentator said yesterday. "A German court sentencing a war criminal can translate quickly into German soldiers being shot at in Bosnia. Forced repairiation of Bosnian refugees could destroy the goodwill that we are building up by taking part in armed overseas missions."

So far, war crimes trials have been held in The Hague by the international tribunal, thus removing specific targets of revenge by aggrieved groups in former Yugoslavia. Many of the defendants in The Hague were first arrested in Germany, German law allows courts to try suspected criminals, arrested in Germany for genocidal crimes abroad — a egacy of the postwar order when Nazi criminals slipped they could not be tried for killings abroad.

Corruption and cash shortages bury goal of modernising forces

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE vision of a modern, all-professional Russian military force, first enunciated by President Gorbachev in 1989 and more recently by archanges have been made, but the scription by 2005 has been under-Boris Yelssin in a statement last revelorms have been patchy: A commined by lack of funding. A pro-year, has been buried by corruption. In the total active Armed Forces fessional army will be more expen-at high level, lack of money and thave been cut to about 1.3 million r sive and, with the defence budget tion in combat effectiveness.

the year 2000 to reform the Armed Forces; Mr Yeltsin's deadline slipped to 2005. Western defence experts believe that Mr Yeltsin's timetable is as unrealistic as Mr Gorbachev's 1989 proposal. Some

years ago, but many of the troops Mr Gorbachev set a deadline of are poorly educated, have criminal records and suffer from ill health and drug abuse.

☐ Contract military personnel have been recruited for three-year periods to begin replacing the conscript system. But the plan to end conmined by lack of funding. A procent since 1992, there is unlikely to be enough money available to at- of funds have reduced the forces to

tract the right quality of recruits. a sorry state. They no longer have ☐ Some elements of the Armed Forces have been reorganised to change the balance towards more rapidly mobile units. Last year it was announced that the command of airborne forces would be switched to local districts for deploying to "hot spots" in and out of Russia.

Some units were reallocated, but

the capability of mounting a big combined-arms operation, involving integrated land-air-sea action because of limited training and poor maintenance of equipment. It is estimated that only about

4 per cent of helicopters, mechanised infantry combat vehicles and armoured paratroop personnel The failure to reform and the lack The International Institute for Strategic Studies said that much of the and a dying navy".

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equipment had "simply rusted away" and some hardware had been sold by local commanders. The replacement of General

Pavel Grachev as Defence Minister by General Igor Rodionov last June was supposed to herald a new era. General Rodionov was seen as the minister of reform. But he was quickly disenchanted and by year's "minister of a disintegrating army

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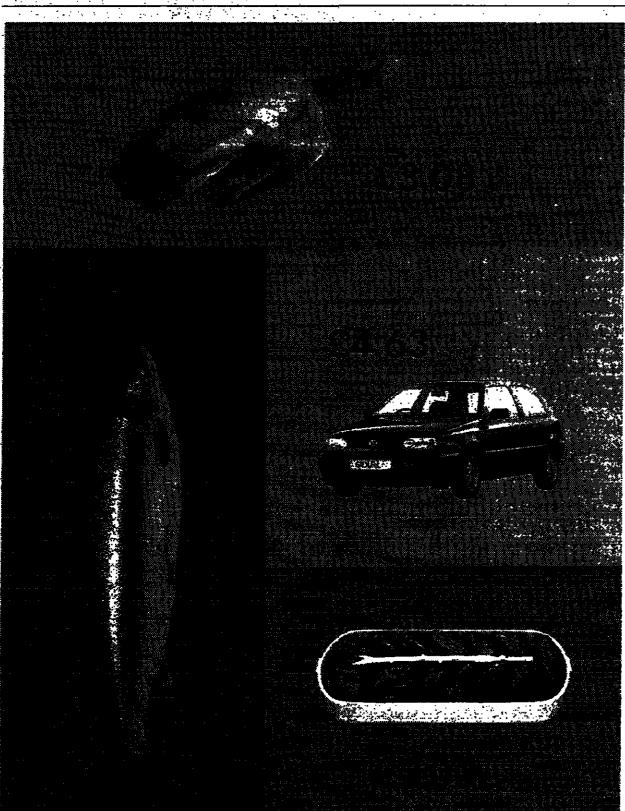
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16



Alain Juppé, left, and François Léotard, champions of the Centre-Right, taste some Beaujolais while on the campaign trail in Pommiers.

Tongue-tied Juppé leads campaign's awkward squad

THE 2,000-strong crowd packed into the Lyons confer-French Cabinet were ranged display of solidarity. The experienced orators of the Centre-Right coalition had whipped the faithful into loud ecstasie with patriotic sentiments and

Then Alain Juppe the Prime Minister, approached public address before tomorrow's first-round vote in a parliamentary election that will decide the shape of the Government for the next five years and seal his political

From the moment his mouth opened, the mood seemed to change and deaden. The flags and banners were stilled: the rally audience, which moments earlier had



Ben Macintyre reports from Lyons on the finale of a lacklustre electoral campaign by the governing parties that failed to deliver the much-needed fizz and sparkle

cheered every phrase from the became suddenly and watchful M Juppe has a strange talent for cauterising emotion, for turning what could be a direct personal appeal into a lecture. Suddenly, in place of the raw but rousing rhetoric, the hall was echoing to statistics, percentages and reasoned

The moment encapsulated M Juppe's two, bruising years in office. Brilliant but distant, dogged and deathly dry, his efforts to reform France, often with considerable courage, have consistently been over shadowed by his mability to communicate, to foster and retain enthusiasm and loyalty. Even the senior figures of the party began to fidget. One of the local candidates

yawned. Charles Pasqua, the attacked M Juppe in the past, giggled and scribbled a note which was passed around, earning a sharp sideways look

from François Leotard, leader of the UDF, the Caullists' jumor olar Prime Min-

finale with vive largers from anyone else it Chirac Vive la Republique might have been. The child vive la France, they were on looked bemused. their feet again with perhaps. However maladroit he may

The Prime Minister and ad of the Gaullist RPR party mblic appearance last week. his aides said he was devoting

his critics alleged that he was being kept from the limelight to word publish of more

inself to media interviews.

into) a crowd in the bright sunshine he still seemed a man out of place. M Juppe has no small talk. His few jokes are heavily ironic. He wants to know the exact percentage of Beaujolais exported to China. Not since campaigning in America with Dan Quayle, the former Vice-President, have I come across a candidate more ineluctably drawn to the pot-holes and pratfalls of the campaign trail, more destined to reinforce his own stereo-

Touring a housing estate in Lyons, he paused to approach two burly men in a car, not noticing the large alsatian in the back. M Juppé proffered his hand through the window. The dog lunged furiously. M Juppe recoiled, having narrowly escaped becoming the first one-handed Prime Minis-

ter in French history. Eloquent on such subjects as delicit reduction and unemployment, M Juppé becomes

ia turn

local inhabit

Small boys clain-

6 As he crowd he

seemed out of

carries with him an air of lofty assurance that many have dismissed as arrogance but which may stem directly from his faith in M Chirac's personal support.

The President has had ample opportunity to replace him over the past two years but has not done so and, if the Centre-Right attains a sizeable majority. M Juppe may find himself once again wearing the Prime Minister's mantle he so covets but carries with such

discomfort.

I Marscilles: An aide of the National Front Mayor in the southern town of Vitrolles was injured and taken to hospital i bussine in the man after a clash with the street a clash with the street from militants. (Renter) after a clash with anti-racist

Le Pen's preference for Left adds to coalition troubles

only a handfull are elected outright, with 50 per cent or more of the rose, and which will go through to the second round on June I with at least

lá.5 per cent. A key indicator of the final siteome will be the number of three-way races between the Socialist Communist alliance, the centre right coalition and the far-right National Front, which has vowed to fight on wherever possible, and may attract crucial votes from the Right, thus increas-ing the possibility of Socialist

Polls predict the National Front share of the vote will grow from its level of 12.8 per cent at the last elections, and anything over a 17 per cent



Le Pere says left-wing victory is preferable

round is likely to create serious problems for the centreright coalition

A growing dispute within the National Front has made that calculation more unpredictable. The leader of the entreme right party, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has caused confusion by suggesting that a leftpreferable to a renewed majorny for the Centre-Right for the fury of some of his party's candidates facing left-wing oponents who fear this could lose them vital votes. A poor first round showing by the Centre-Right will also increase pressure on President Chirac to replace Alain; Juppe, the Prime Minister. Most crucially, polisters predict that up to a third of voters

will fail to cast their ballots in

a reflection of distillusionme

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B52 pilot

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jail term FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KELLY FLINN, America's first woman B52 pilot,

agreed to resign from the

US Air Force rather than

face a court martial for

adultery only after realising it looked more

and more likely she would

go to prison. Her mother, Mary Flinn, said angrily: There

was a strong possibility that Kelly would end up a convict. What good is

discharge.
The family realised the air force was out to make an example of Lieutenant Flinn when the Chief of Staff, General Ronald Fogleman, declared the issue was not her adultery. but her lying about it and disobeying orders to end her affair with a married civilian. Her lawyer. Frank Spinner, said the remarks irreparably damaged Lieutenant Flinn's

chance of a fair trial.

Blast victim denies ' McVeigh was on board rented truck

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Oklahoma City bombing trial took a dramatic twist... last night when a woman testified for the first time she had seen two men get out of a rented truck filled with explosives but neither was Timothy. McVeigh, the chief suspect.

Dana Bradley, who lost a leg in the attack that killed 168 adults and children, had been called as a material witness for the defence of Mr Mc-Veigh, 29, a decorated Gulf

War veteran. In the past, Ms Bradley has always described seeing only one olive-skinned and thickset individual climbing from the yellow Ryder truck minutes before the blast. But in the Denver courtroom yesterday, she testified for the first time that she had seen two people, but not Mr McVeigh. Judge Richard Matsch was forced to recess the trial while she talked to her lawyer about the sudden revelation.

Although she appeared to have changed her story, the Bradley testimony is certain to lend weight to the defence theory of a wider conspiracy involving individuals other than Mr McVeigh. She lost her mother and two children in the explosion and her sister was seriously injured.

The defence was equally stunned by her testimony and the defendant appeared taken aback as he stared intently at



Marshall: believes a 169th person died

the young black woman when she put her head in her hands and said: "I seen two men get out of the truck.

Ms Bradley described the second man as white and said she did not think it was Mr McVeigh. She also said she had a poor memory and a history of mental illness.

The defence team, led by Stephen Jones, had earlier sown further seeds of doubt about the prosecution case by suggesting that a mystery bomber may have actually died when the 4,000lb of ammonium nitraté was detonated outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

Thomas Marshall, a British if convicted.

forensic pathologist who headed a government forensics unit in Northern Ireland, said he believed that an unknown 169th person had died in the explosion because investigators have been unable to match a leg found in the rubble with any known victim. "All I can say is this must

represent another victim," said Mr Marshall. "I am forming my opinion on the fact that no other part of that body is available, just a leg." The mystery bomber theory

was also given credence by the testimony of a Chinese restaurant employee in Junction City, Kansas, who made a takeaway delivery to a hotel room that prosecutors say Mr McVeigh occupied four nights before the bombing. He said the room was occupied by .another man.

Furthermore, the agent who rented the Ryder truck that carried the bomb said he could not identify Mr McVeigh 30ft away in the courtroom.

The defence is hoping to counter the prosecution's powerful circumstantial evidence that explosive traces were found on Mr McVeigh's clothing, that he was tracked in the days before the blast and was arrested 90 minutes afterwards, driving north from Oklahoma City. Mr McVeigh faces a possible death sentence



Riot ends Indonesia election campaign

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S general election campaign came to a violent end yesterday as police and troops in Jakarta fired rifles, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse thousands of stone-throwing supporters of rival parties.

Several people were injured

and more than a dozen arrested as the authorities fought for more than four hours to control the rioters in a southern suburb of the capital. Tanks and armoured cars were deployed after order had been restored to prevent further clashes.

The violence started when fighting broke out after heated exchanges between supporters party, and the minority Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP). Golkar flags and banners were burnt

The next five days are a cooling-off period before voting on May 29. Only three parties are allowed by law in Indonesia: Golkar, the PPP and the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). They are competing for 425 of the 500

sentatives. The remaining 75 seats are reserved for the armed forces, still considered the most powerful social and political force.

The result is a foregone conclusion. Backed by the armed forces and the bureaucracy, Golkar is expected to win by a landslide, as it has done in five previous elections under President Suharto.

Kinshasa protesters denounce 'dictator' Kabila | Interpol aids lion-hunt inquiry



FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

YOUTHS marched through the capital of the Democratic Repubhe of Congo yesterday, chanting Kabila is a dictator". Hours earlier, the rebel alliance of Laurent Kabila, the self-declared President, announced a govern-ment in the former Zaire that did not include Etienne Tshisekedi. the main opposition party leader. Mr Tshisekedi, who enjoys considerable popularity in Kinshasa, has dismissed the new administration as illegitimate.

alliance leader, the people must reject the new regime. Until today I haven't been able to meet my brother [Kabila]," Mr Tshisekedi told supporters at his home in the capital. "His collaborators have done everything to stop me Of the 13 Cabinet posts an-

nounced yesterday, nine went to the alliance, two to the opposition Patriotic Front and two to members of Mr Tshisekedi's opposition UDPS. The pair were soon disowned by their party. Another seven Cabinet posts have yet to

meeting between himself and the Tshisekedi was offered the vice-

presidency by the alliance's second-in-command, Deogratias Bugera. When questioned about this. Mr Tshisekedi finally admitted: "Maybe."

☐ Rabat: Mobutu Sese Seko, Zaire's deposed ruler, flew from Togo to Morocco and was whisked to a beach resort on the second leg of his flight into exile. The presence of Mr Mobutu, 66, had distressed his old friend. Gnassingbe Eyadema, the Togo ruler. Under pressure from the opposition, who said the deposed der's presence was a disgrace. Mr Eyadema refused to allow in Mobutu into exile. (AP)

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

INTERPOL agents have been invited to assist South African detectives in an investigation into lion "trophy" hunting. after the practice was exposed in a documentary screened on

British television. About 30 Interpol wildlife enforcement officers from across the world will fly into South Africa this weekend for a meeting with the South African Police's Endangered Species Protection Unit in the day. The discussions will ex- for trophies.

amine the progress of investigations into lion hunting and explore joint operations to curb the illegal smuggling and killing of animals

Eight South African police officers have begun investigating the video evidence from the Cook Report showing how lions are drugged and shot by overseas hunters. The recording was made by documentary producers working undercover to expose hunting agents. The agents offer hunting trips to wealthy businessmen who pay upwards of 12,000 to s

The programme has provoked international outrage and put pressure on President Mandela's Government to take firm action against the perpetrators.

The documentary shows how a lioness was lured from the Kruger National Park with bait placed under the wire fencing before being shot in full view of her cubs. The tourist then poses with the dead animal before it is

skinned for a "trophy". The documentary claimed about 300 lions could be under operations.

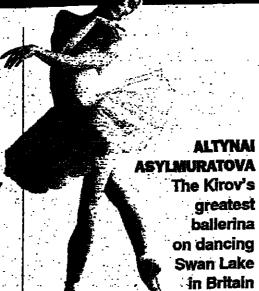


The dictator and his murderous passion for his niece



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Communist leader Bertinotti pays respects to old guard after power breakfast with City bankers

Left's kingmaker snubs Blair to court Scargill

WHEN Fausto Bertinotti, the leader of Italy's hardline Communists, went to London to address bankers over breakfast earlier this week, he wasted no time afterwards hobnobbing with Britain's new Government. Instead he spent the few spare moments he had with Arthur Scargill. "Sir Fausto enjoys eggs and bacon in the City but snubs new Labour" was the headline in La Repubblica, which

that Mr Scargill was "a spent Signor Bertinotti, 57, looks like a member of the Italian establishment: he wears the tweeds and brogues of what the Italian press calls "the

by RICHARD OWEN his obvious integrity. But his deeply held views are those of the unreconstructed hard Left and he has the whip hand in the left-wing coalition that has ruled Italy for the past year, which is why the bank-

ROME FILE

ers wanted to hear him. Signor Bertinotti's Rifondazione Comunista (Communist Refoundation), consists of those hardliners who balked when the Communist Party finally dropped its Marxism and became the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) in 1991. A year ago the PDS which sees itself as the Italian version of New Labour -

refused to back him over the sending of Italian troops to Albania, arguing that the mission was a "neo-colonialist Above all Signor Bertinotti

has repeatedly obstructed attempts to cut welfare spenddeficit to meet the criteria for the single European currency. This week he issued a warning that if the Government dared to touch social benefits. including Italy's spending on pensions, which is the highest in Europe, it would "risk its very survival". He added that he saw no need to tackle the pensions issue "until 2008 at So far the coalition has

survived, mainly by striking case-by-case deals with the hard Left behind the scenes. Signor Bertinotti has indicated that he might compromise on some contentious issues such as privatisation. He assured his banking audience this week that Signor Prodi was "safe". But he is exacting a high price for his support and Signor Prodi cannot assume that the hard Left will always back him for fear of

letting the Right into office. "If Prodi does fall," Signor Bertinotti said with an ominous flourish recently, "it will be because he did not have the courage to build a govern-ment capable of change. The fact that he is himself obstructing change does not seem to worry him.



Fausto Bertinotti: unreconstructed Marxist with aristocratic English style

Italians show monumental ignorance on heritage

Ministry of Culture to encourage Italians to take more interest in their Classical and Renaissance treasures, many have only the vaguest notion where the Sistine Chapel, the Rialto Bridge or the Greek temples of Agrigento are, let alone when or why

Lega Ambiente, the environmental agency, asked 5,000 Italians to identify ll prominent Italian monuments and say where they were. Nearly all correctly identified the Colosseum, although most thought it dated from the founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus in the 8th century BC, rather than the reigns of Vespasian and Titus, nearly 1,000 years later.

But half of those questioned had no

idea where the Rialto Bridge was, placing it on the Po or the Arno rather than over the Grand Canal in Venice. A similar number were unable to identify the Theatre of Marcello (built by Julius Caesar) near Capitol Hill, or the Ara Pacis, the Altar to Peace erected by the Emperor Augustus in 13 BC on the banks of the Tiber, and restored by Mussolini

Even residents of Rome who pass the monuments every day had no idea what they were. Eighty-five per cent of those questioned could not say when the Sistine Chape! was built (late 15th century) or when its frescoes were painted by Michelangelo (early 16th century). Twenty per cent thought the Sistine Chanel was in Florence rather Sistine Chapel was in Florence rather than in the Vatican, and 70 per cent thought the Valley of the Temples in Sicily was in Greece. Il Messaggero which published the survey, said it was hardly surprising that Italy's art

shops, boutiques and restaurants, residents FRANCESCO RUTELLI, the ecology-minded

Mayor of Rome, has deployed a new weapon in his war against congested traffic and illegal parking: pot plants. Giant palms in concrete tubs appeared one morning in our cobbled street near St Peter's Square, to the delight of residents and the frustration of motorists who used the street as a short cut or as overspill parking for the Vatican. But not all Romans have welcomed the restrictions.

In Trastevere (literally "across the Tiber") on the other side of the river, a picturesque and rather louche area of gentrified worksimply move the huge pots to one side at night and exercise their right to roar up and down and double-park as normal. In the morning,

first time since the Second

World War as part of an al-

liance led by Professor Roma-

no Prodi. But although the

Centre-Left gained an abso-

lute majority in the Senate, it

failed to win an outright

majority in the vital Lower

House, It is therefore forced to depend on Signor Bertinotti's

35 MPs. He may seem an

anachronism, but there are

dearly enough militant left-

wing voters to give him the

balance of power. As a result,

he can hold the Prodi Govern-

ment to ransom on issues

from Albania to the economy.

Last month Signor Prodi al-

identity and its traditionally irreverent attitude to authority in all forms. But some residents. particularly those with young fam-ilies, are taking Signor Rutelli's side, arguing that it is the shopkeepers and nightclub owners who benefit from the anarchic traffic. The battle of the potted palms continues.

Of Toxts, St. Westers 3 tall ny passal no EAST by Aguib Kinas-Din, Mon-Sal 7.30cm, Sal Mad 3.30cm exides today. Upstans (Ambastadors, West Sti From 27 May COFFEE by Edward Board, Tues-Sal 7.30, Sal SHAKESPEARE'S GLOSE THEATRE Opening Sesson 27 May - 21 Separaber 1997.

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Pope criticised for 'rewriting Gospel' have the authority to do so". St that "Jesus appeared first to Luke records that the women Mary Magdalene. She went

By RICHARD OWEN

A LEADING theologian yesterday took issue with an assertion by the Pope that the Virgin Mary and not Mary Magdalene was "the first person to see Jesus after the Resurrection".

Vittorio Messori, a Catholic writer and theologian, said the Pope's remarks at his weekly audience on Wednesday were iv a hypothesis. "It is not un to the Holy Father to rewrite the Gospels," he told La Repubblica. "Even he does not

who arrived first at the empty tomb were "Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James", while St Matthew refers to "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary". St John has Mary Magdalene alone that "it is legitimate to think arriving at the tomb "while it that it was lessys mother was still dark", finding that was the first person to whom the stone had been moved; he appeared the absent of from the entrace and running, the Blessel Virgin Mary trees to find Peter Later she sees the grant of warm of warm and warm.

Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. St Mark says specifically

to find Peter. Later she see

and mok the news to his mourning and somewful followers, but when she said she had seen him they did not The Pope had commented

to the tomb at dawn is probably a clue to the fact that she had already met the risen

the Gospel accounts were "not exhaustive". He added: "It is not conceivable that she would have been excluded from those in that first community of ciples who witnessed the

The Pope said the Gospels' silence on Mary's presence may also have been because the Evangelists thought she was "too close to Jesus" to make a credible witness for sceptics. He received cautious backing from Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan.

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noted that Signor Bertinotti seemed blissfully unaware

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English country gentleman look", affects an aristocratic lisp and smokes cigars. Although a lifelong trade unionist, he comes from a well-off Piedmont family. He is affable, modest and admired for

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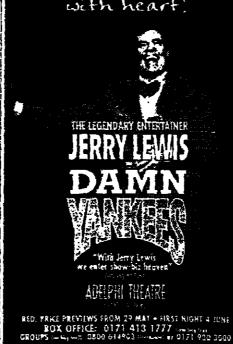
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 24 1997



OPINION

The Royal Opera House must decide whether it is a public amenity or a private club



OPERA

Glyndebourne makes the best possible case for Britten's pacifist opera Owen Wingrave THEXITIMES



CABARET

Ruthie Henshall impresses at the Festival Hall, once she stops trying to be the second Ethel Merman



MUSIC

A late Schubert mass is sung by the Vienna Singverein with consummate authority

enista McIntosh resigns as chief executive of the Royal Opera House because the stress makes her poorly. Mary Allen, instantly ap-pointed as her replacement without the bore of having to submit to a selection procedure, immediately goes on sick leave from her job as Arts Council secretary general. Gosh. it's just like Act IV of La Boheme. Even the thought of

running Covent Garden makes you feel very, very ill. But that's no surprise. Say the words "Royal Opera House" to a music lover and you get one of three reactions. The first is touching admiration for a "centre of excellence that keeps Britain's reputation high in the lyric world. Presumably there are folk who subscribe to that view - otherwise why would Covent Garden receive a £20 million annual subsidy, plus a £78 million lottery handout for closure and redevelopment? But the funny thing is, all of them seem

to be abroad at the moment. Then there are the sophisticates who say: look, we know Covent Time's up for the Bow St bodgers I used to hold the second vie

Garden has been in chaos for years; that the closure plans are (in the memorable words of the Arts Council chairman) a shambles: that the taxpayer is being taken for a ride; that top Covent Garden jobs are handed out without a semblance of open competition; and that nobody on an ordinary income can afford to visit the place more than once a decade - but hey! That's opera for you! Deba-cles, walkouts, snobbery, strikes, deficits, mad prices, stitch-ups ... it's all part of the show. For a mere £20 million, Britain gets an annual season ticket to the longest-running farce since Brian Rix pulled

up his mousers. There is, however, a third reaction. Pure fury. Opera and ballet are noble arts. The Covent Garden management has turned them into bywords for irrelevance, waste and incompetence. No true music lover can or should forgive that.

with a certain professional gratitude towards an institution that supplied so many riveting yarns of crassness and excess. But now I have joined the angry brigade. And it wasn't even the murk surrounding McIntosh's resigna-tion that did it. That only rein-forced the image of Covent Garden as the Valhalla of bungling. No, what angers me is the

realisation that any chance of reforming Covent Garden is about to disappear for ever. We have a new Government avowedly com-mitted to "the people's priorities". Well, you don't have to be a rabid socialist to feel that Covent Garden way out of step with the people". We also have the opera house about to close for two years. If Chris Smith, the new Heritage Secretary, doesn't bash some sense into the Bow St bodgers now, he

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

never will. On Thursday night he did at least make a speech knock-ing "elitist" arts organisations that charge ridiculous seat prices. But veiled threats aren't enough to deal with this bunch.

Three things must change. First.

public amenity, not a private club. It's intolerable that a handful of very rich patrons, rattling their jewellery menacingly, can impose policy on the most highly subsidised arts organisation in Britain. It would be intolerable even if they were any good at it. The fact that they have made a pig's ear of the place adds injury to insult.

Privatising Covent Garden completely — turning it into an allvear-round Glyndebourne would actually not be a bad idea. But if that is what we wanted we should never have committed £78 million of public money to its redevelopment. Now the moral

imperative must be to open it up. Of course, Covent Garden's patrons would not interfere so much if they had respect for the management. Which brings us to the second change. Every successful opera house has one strong.

LONDON Austrians were out in force for Wednesday night's visit from the Vienna Singverein and Rainer Küchl,

former leader of the Vienna

Philharmonic. In these days of

hyped youth, how refreshing to have a London debut by so

seasoned a violinist: the self-

effacing 57-year-old Vienna

Hochschule professor gave a

performance of the Beethoven

Violin Concerto of simplicity

His easy elegance lent a

surface sheen to the opening.

but by the closing bars of the

cadenza, played with an ar-

resting hollow tone, he had

found a still centre, sustained

and intensified through the

slow movement. Richard

Stamp's conception of the

concerto appeared to be epic, if

the elaborate gestures were

anything to go by; yet it was

and sweetness.

tatorship is the only thing that works. Mostly such figures are conductors. Rarely are they shoe heiresses or jumped-up PR suits.

Look around. Riccardo Muti is both iron fist and velvet glove at La Scala. Nothing moves at the New York Met without a nod from James Levine. And the Kirov owes all its current sheen to the intimidating genius of Valery Gergiev.

o where is Covent Garden's tough maestro? The answer is that it hasn't had one since Solti, 30 years ago. Haitink, the present music director, is a superb conductor but no bruiser. The place needs a firebrand who will inspire the performers, charm the patrons and terrorise those med-

dling, muddling board members. But what brilliant conductor would wish to take on an organis-

Sweetly

seasoned

CONCERT

Vienna Singverein

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Küchl who dignified the occa-

sion with his own instinctive

Schubert's Mass in E flat.

from the final year of his life, is

coming in from the critical

cold at last. While the opening

Kyrie may sound as consoling

as Mendelssohn, the compos-

er's unconventional handling

of the Credo, the pregnant

leadership.

brings us to the third matter. London needs, and can support, one great opera company – not two that are both crippled by debt. This month the spotlight happens to be on Covent Garden's turmoil, but the stories of crisis emerging from English National Opera are no less sensational. The blunt fact is that London's

ic financial problems? Which

opera and dance provision is an archaic hotchpotch that must be totally restructured. Over the years, report after report has come from the Arts Council, yet the tough decisions are always dodged. Chris Smith must impose some logic — some social justification — on this subsidised anarchy, even if he has to trample all over the famous "arm's length princinie" in the process.

It pains me to write that Politicians should keep their hands off the arts as much as possible. But when the kiddies are tearing apart their playpen, nanny is permitted to bang some heads together. And confiscate their pocket-money too, if necessary.

statement.

incarnatus est.

chromaticism of the fugues and the baleful Agnus Dei

with which it ends, uncertainly, make for a deeply personal

The Vienna Singverein cre-ated a well-rounded, unforced

sound with wonderfully deep

open vowels, and the two

tenors, Jamie McDougall and

Ivan Sharpe, and soprano

Cornelia Hosp were well blended in a tender Et

Stamp made the most of the

Sanctus with its audacious

melody rising in the major

and falling through two minor

keys. He was helped by four

fine trombonists, whose parts

give the impetus and founda-

tion to the whole work. They

led the fateful Agnus Dei

climax with grand resonance.

HELEN WALLACE

Full military honours

operas hitherto regarded as ugly ducklings in the canon, one - Gloriana - has been turned by the passing of time and Phyllida Lloyd's mould-breaking Opera North production into the most giorious of swans. Whether or not Glyndebourne can do the same for his pacifist opera Owen Wingrave (1970) remains to be seen: it is a rather

tougher and to crack.
Some of the problems may stem from its origins as a BBC TV commission; emphasis on

> **Owen Wingrave** Glyndebourne

Contract Contraction of

narrative values and naturalistic conversation may then have been thought apparon-ate to the medium, but they mean that the first act takes an awfully long time to get going, and once it has done so the piece seems to change tack: what has been developed as a moral argument between Owen and his military family suddenly turns into a Jamesian ghost story. In presenting the case for his passionately held beliefs, Britten could perhaps have chosen tougher

subject matter. But good for Glyndebourne, bringing their 1995 touring production into the festival repentory. Daniel Dooner's revision of the Robin Phillips production doesn't solve all

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the physical problems inherited from television — the odd split-screen episode, and opportunities not taken up at the time for voiceover — and Hisham Ali's set relies on gauzes where light might have been more effective.

But for once an opera is not over-directed, which allows you to concentrate on the music, greatly to the work's advantage. However diffuse Myfanwy Piper's libretto may be, Britten's score is ideally

concentrated and Ivor Bolton's steadily flowing conduct-ing and excellent playing from the London Philharmonic allow you to follow closely the purely musical argument.

One other inherited problem involves casting: it is hard not to keep hearing Peter Pears. Sylvia Fisher and Jennifer Vyvyan, so closely did the composer tailor the writing to their capabilities. But the hand-picked Glyndebourne cast successfully overcomes

this problem: the piece is, truth to tell, rather more evenly sung than in 1970. Gerald Finley is quite out-

standing in the title role, his dark mahogany baritone capable of real heroic edge in his great Peace aria. The sympathetic roles of Mr and Mrs Coyle - proprietors of the military crammer, and representing us, the audience - are beautifully taken by Steven Page and Vivian Tierney, though the latter could sharpen her diction. Christopher Ventris shows equal tact as the Hooray Henry Lechmere, and Eiddwen Harrhy (Miss Wingrave). Elizabeth Gale (Miss Julian). Ann Taylor (Kate) and — especially — Neil Jenkins (Sir Philip) resolutely decline to be overshadowed by their predecessors. Musically this is a very satisfying evening; dra-

remain "not proven". RODNEY MILNES

breathing character into the

melodies rather than just bel-

lowing them out. The greater

emphasis on more contempo-

rary material helped, Memory

matically the verdict has to

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CHANGING TIMES

CABARET: Clive Davis on a belting Ruthie Henshall at the Festival Hall

BACK in the early days of the space race Private Eve ran a cover mischievously proclaiming Britain's entry into the fray. Underneath the bold headline lurked a silhouette of the Albert Memorial, looking every inch a string-and-Sellotape Saturn V rocket.

The moral of the story is that some things are best left to gung-ho Americans. Ruthie Henshall, rightly acclaimed as one of the bright hopes of the West End musical, invited similar comparisons in the first half of her concert.

It takes a certain self-confidence, not to say recklessness. to begin a performance by competing with Ethel Merman on Everything's Coming Up Roses or by evoking mem-

Purr and stir

shall does not - yet - belong in their company, and we were left with the spectacle of a personable but uncharismatic singer straining for the big climaxes above the massed ranks of the BBC Concert Orchestra.

The Rose, a hit for Bette Midler, opened more promisingly, with simple piano accompaniment. But once the rest of the band entered, Henshall again sounded more shrill than impassioned. Her treatment seemed all the more

ories of Judy Garland on The derivative given that the Man That Got Away. Hen-song's composer. Amanda McBroom, had delivered a magnificent rendition London a few weeks ago.

The desultory repartee and the tacky introduction of two male dancers did little to improve the show's awkward post-interval gallop through Rhapsody in Blue by the Walz, who deserved better.

pacing. Nor did a perfunctory, Australian pianist Bernard Yet Henshall herself was transformed in the second

half, finally playing to her

strengths as an actress and

and the Les Mis anthem I Dreamed A Dream working well in this context. On Woking the sultry doubles entendres of a vamp-like railway platform announcer provided an outlet for her polished comedy skills. Lionel Bart's Where is Love found her at her most tender and vulnerable. By the time she reached the closing slivers of Gershwin, in Someone To Watch

star actress. The voice by now

was purring, not shouting.

Over Me and But Not For Me. she was no longer the wannabe star, more the five-

THRILLING, DAZZLING, AMAZING...WHATEVER SUPERLATIVE YOU CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE THIS FILM WILL DO IT AN INJUSTICE" GARY WHITE NOT JUST FOR BOXING FANS ... THIS IS A MUST-SEE ...An Inspirational And Brittiant Reminder Of A Real Hero" THE TRUE STORY OF THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE avit, keenan - melook makes







ODEON LIVERPOOL GATESHEAD QUAY) GLASGOW

Continental football idols — Eric, Ruud, Gianfranco and Jürgen — have swept British xenophobia off the field, says Simon Barnes

Doint one: sport is trivial. That is why people like it so much. Point two: nothing that people truly care about can be altogether trivial. In fact, if all the politicians who have been banging the drum about Europe had taken the trouble to read the sports pages. they would not now be naked to their enemies. Perhaps even the politicians most deeply committed to Britain - to this scept red isle. ruler of the waves, the land splendidly isolated, from Alfred the Great to Alf Garnett - might have had cause to think again had they read with proper seriousness the trivial news that gauded the news-

papers of the nation this week. Cantona: a nation mourns! Au revoir. Eric! This newspaper carried the story of Cantona's retirement from football on the front page, page three, and on the front the sports section. Why so lavish? The principle was that, as The Sun itself acknowledged. Cantona was bigger news even than Gazza.

iazza, or Paul Gascoigne, lest it should have escaped any politiwho plays football. Cantona, however, is French - and, until his

retirement, his was the biggest

name in English football.

Football is seen as the abode of unreconstructed xenophobes. Little Englanders. They hate all black people, naturally. And they hate all foreigners, especially Frogs, Krauts and Wops. They never vote Labour. because Labour is the party that likes blacks and will bring us Brits far too close to that terrible garlicladen enclave known as Europe.

Now to hold in one's head a large number of contradictory notions is the prescriptive right of every human being. But logic has a way of wearing down the most obvious of these cherished bits of nonsense. It is impossible to hate all Frenchmen and love Cantona. For Cantona was not, and never looked like becoming, an honorary Englishman, a Henry James, a T.S. Eliot. Cantona is quintessentially

Frog. He never did get to speak much English. His talent was to be exceptional. He needed colleagues to be different from: that is why he fulfilled his talent in England, rather than France.

Thus Manchester United supporters took Cantona to their bosom as a card-carrying exotic. and they celebrated his exoticism by singing his praises to the tune of the Marseillaise. Eric Cantona's Frenchness was not incidental to his popularity: it was central.

There is no Euroscepticism in modern English football. If anything, football is in the grip of rampant Eurocredulousness. A week ago, Chelsea won the FA Cup Final. The opening goal was scored by Roberto di Matteo, who is Italian. The second goal was set up with the jolliest little back-heel from Gianfranco Zola, another Italian. Zola had just been voted in as the official football writers' Player of

the Year. Italians were once seen in England as the great villains of football: a bunch of devious, Machiavellian assassins, as vicious as they were dishonest. But Zola. of Chelsea and Italy, Zola who scored for his country the goal that may yet keep England out of World Cup finals, is an English national hero. This Zola is no bête humzine. Overseas footballers have won

the Player of the Year award for the past three seasons. Cantona got it the previous year, and before that it went to Jürgen Klinsmann. Klinsmann is a German who arrived to play for Tottenham Hotspur with a reputation for conning referees by diving — that is, flinging himself to the floor as if mortally wounded at every opportunity. He was a national hate figure: an arch-enemy. He celebrated his first goal for his English club by diving headlong at the turf: gleefully mocking his own mockers. And he left a year later as

an English national love-object. Europeans now manage leading English clubs. "Yeah, well, you know, early, doors, right?" says Rund Gullit, manager of Chelsea, who is not only Dutch, but dreadlocked and black. Despite his. fondess for England and its footballing cliches, he remains one of the best managerial talkers on the game. Arsenal are managed by the not inappropriately named Frenchman, Arsène Wenger, a man with rimless speciacles who at press conferences assumes the air of a university lecturer addressing a particularly dim bunch of under-grads. Both men have had a very reasonable amount of success in their first seasons: therefore both are liked. Guilit is a man very greatly loved, and not only by men: women find him bright, not boor-

ish: masculine, not macho. One of the points of sport is that it is quantifiable. You can deny that

antona & co beat Alf Garnett Marcel Proust had any talent as a novelist whatsoever, but you cannot argue with the proposition that in the 1995-96 football season, Cantona scored 19 goals and that his team won the league championship and the FA Cup. The position that all Frogs are useless gits is basically untenable. urosceptics believe that little

> do with Europe, and that the little Englanders' heartland is on the terraces of the great football clubs. But this is not the case. For a start, there are no terraces in the top division any more; the game is played in all-seater stadiums. And every Premiership club and its (seated) supporters will talk

Englanders want nothing to

forever about their principal ambition. We want to get into Europe. We've dropped a couple of home games, people say — but we can still get into Europe. It is the

measure of success and failure. Getting into Europe means playing in one of the three competitions for European clubs. Qualification for these competitions comes from success in the three principal domestic competitions. How far have Manchester United come? They have dominated the domestic game, but the consensus is that they cannot be numbered among the truly great sides until they win

something "in Europe".

Love of Europe is traditionally seen as a vaguely liberal, vaguely middle-class, vaguely intellectual sort of thing: the French, well, so civilised, Toujours Provence and my dear, what's the English for cafetière? But it is in football that Europe actually matters to people. Cantona says: "Le foot a toujours déchaîne les passions." Football, that is, has always unleashed great passions. Another philosophe -Voltaire — once wrote: "Ecrasez Pinfame." Which, roughly translated, means: "Stamp out prejudice." Thank you, Eric, Ruud, Gianfranco and Jürgen: you have banished Alf

Morals of the postal code

Crash is possibly the worst film even duty has ever made me watch: the Oh Calcutta! of the used-car lot

censored. Four-letter words are banned. No offence may be given to notoriously sensitive groups such as...I dare not even mention names. Ethical codes, editorial oversight, common decency, the law and a sense of self-protection fence the writer in on all sides. The wonder is that anything is printed.

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So what is so special about Westminster City Council, which this week refused to license the showing of David Cronenberg's film Crash in West End cinemas? It may have under its aegis some of London's most lurid mails of depravity. But a film entirely dedicated to the eroticism of car crashes was too much for even the most case-hardened councillor. The

licensing committee drew a line against the film last November. Despite a special and a subsequent 18 certificate from the industry's own censor. James Ferman. the committee en-

dured a second showing this week and confirmed its ban. Never in

Sado-masochistic West Enders must now trek to the lawless cultural frontiers of Camden or Islington. There, in Westminster's fervid imagination, the highways are littered with ratepayers having sex in crashed cars. That is what you get with new Labour. It may seem ludicrous for a film to be acceptable in NW1 yet deprayed in SWI, great in W8 but intolerable in W2, but these days you can tell a man's morals by his postal code. If Westminster does not hold, mere

anarchy is loosed upon the world. I have seen Crash. It is possibly the worst film that even line-of-duty has forced me to watch: the Oh Calcutta! of the used-car lot. It is composed of pornography, car crashes and tedium in equal parts. Wild horses would not make me read the 25-year-old novel from which it is adapted, by J.G. Ballard. The producers presumably had the option of making the sex scenes allusive rather than overt, as in film adaptations of, say, Lady Chatterley. Lolita or Anna Karenina. They went for overt. Film directors are the only professionals I know whose career entitles them to get women to take off their clothes and simulate sex in front of them. The more explicit the sex, they claim, the more artistical-Iv challenging the voveurism.

Art films have always been wellmanured with humoug. "To make a film is to improve on life," said

very article on this page is Truffaut. You don't make a movie. the movie makes you," said Godard. To Cocteau, film was "death in action...a petrified fountain of thought. To Orson Welles it was a ribbon of dreams". There is no end to the drivel you get when you ask a profession to describe the significance of its work.

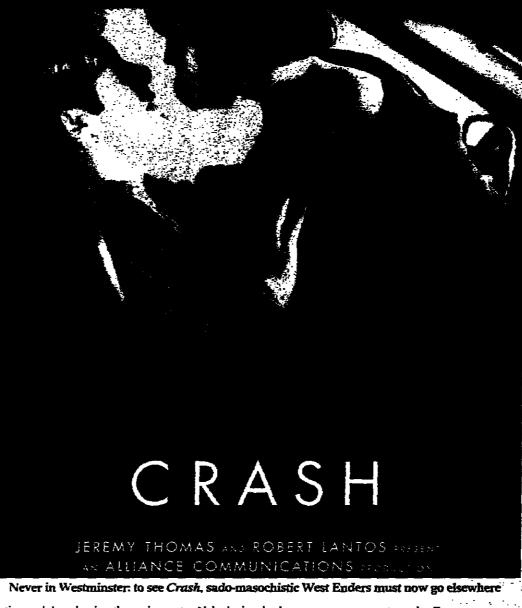
Thus any cuts to Crash, said the producer Chris Auty, would damage the integrity of his "warning against dehumanisation, against a society drifting into affectlessness". This is allegedly a film about "the reshaping of the human body by modern technology". It sees car crashes as sexually liberating, as "a fertilising rather than a destructive event". What a flexible friend is the English language.

The issue is not the movie, but its capacity to incite imitation. Suppose i had made a film not about mechanically challenged cars but about socially challenged people. I am sure could persuade actors to portray

people getting sexual thrills from racial violence. They would have erotic experiences mugging ethnic minorities and taking part in Klan rituals. They could be shown dismembering disabled people and doing disgusting things to Aids victims. I would dismiss all protest on the grounds that this was art and that art must be free. I would add the filmmaker's mantra, that a good film is a statement: it can do no harm.

Were I to make such a film. discrimination and harassment laws would be invoked against me. No defender of artistic freedom would rush to my defence. Yet the film industry pleads a double standard. Advertisement films are promoted as effective sellers of products and services. Films depicting violence or sexual degradation are somehow "ineffective", ribbons of dreams, mere escapism. A film can sell, set role models, even tell a moral tale: mysteriously it cannot tell an immoral one. Provided a film is produced by the trade union of serious film-makers, it is art and therefore benign. Any evil thoughts and images must be for the public

This is the talk of sophists down the ages. The directors, actors and cameramen who made Crash may claim they were involved in a deeply moral artistic experience. So be it. They may wish to share this experience with the public, to its entertainment and their profit. This is a free country and London is a private enterprise city. Cinemas are semi-private places and what con-



senting adults do in them is normally their own business. These are arguments. But so too are those presented by Westminster City

The council believes that there is such a thing as imitative crime, that films can induce had behaviour. It points out that an IS certificate does not deny young people access to this film - as any London parent knows. Councillors judge the film depraved and see it as an incitement to seek sexual pleasure from crashing cars on city streets. London police have enough trouble without this added menace. Local regulators have elected accountability. They have licensing powers, and are not having this film on their patch. That is what their

voters would want. Had I been a Westminster coun-cillor I would have been sorely tempted to ban Crash. It blatantly celebrates ghoulish violence. As the critic Alexander Walker wrote in the London Evening Standard, this kind of film-making becomes a "hermetic experience" on closed

sets. Nobody involved ever says, enough is enough. But bad films make bad censorship debates. The onus of proof should always be on tne censor, whether a work is pomography or art. Censoring films is nowadays a near fruidess enterprise, given their availability on video. I would not have graced Crash with a ban, it is not worth the hassle or the publicity of the

et I would expect a local ban on flagrantly racist material, in neighbourhoods where it would be offensive and inflammatory. Films must have differing impacts in different places. Local option in censorship is appropriate to local democracy. It is preferable to national censorship, because it can respond to local feeling and because it leaves the producer with the possibility of other outlets, for a second opinion on his work. One city's anti-social propaganda is another's harmless hokum. Local option is subsidiary democracy at work. For years, many Welsh counties refused to permit-Sunday drinking. Such freedom should be extended to Sunday trading, noise abatement, gambling and the control of animals. Local discretion does not mean the disuniting of the kingdom. Already Westminster is inviting outraged citizens to telephone complaints about other offensive films, doubtless to the glee of voters. If that is what the citizens of Westminster

want, who are we to deny it them? We are all censored. Censorship polices the border between public taste and licence. Like all policemen, it should be invoked only in emergencies. In most forms of artistic expression, the zest to interfere is most shrill when selfdiscipline has broken down. The same is true of journalistic intrusion. The public has enough and calls in the law. That is why the true friends of the censor are those who pretend that bad taste does not matter, who claim a licence to offend and demand that every mark be overstepped.

Let in daylight on the magic of art

Electric illumination of paintings

is barbaric, says Avigdor Arikha

rt lovers are betrayed, and A the general purpose museums by the use in most museums and galleries of artificial light. One might not know that it falsifies chromatic values and hence impairs our vision of colour. But even an amateur who, having seen a painting in natural light, sees it again in artificial light, is bound to experience something akin to drinking a great wine that has been corked. The consequences suffered by the slighted art lover are far worse, however, than the frustrations of the disappointed drinker. indeed, the absence of daylight from museums places their very

purpose in jeopardy.

Natural light has been suppressed almost everywhere, and replaced with artificial light, quite in opposition to the conditions necessary for what one might call. proper vision. Artificial light is seen as an improvement, though it is in fact a regression from the marvellous conditions in which one could a an - are thus betrayed when see printings up to 30 years ago: . shown in artificial light.

London's National Gallery, espent. Light, then, is to museums what cially — and notoriously — the accustics are to concert halls: it

Sainsbury Wing, with its tempo-rary exhibitions bunker, the Royal Academy, which has covered its marvellous skylights; the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Uffizi in Florence; the museums and galleries of Paris, Rome and Madrid: all have been affected by the dogmatic belief in the virtues of ,

artificial light. There are social and economic reasons for its use, of course, without it museums would have to shut at sundown and would never have late-opening days. At least as important, though, is the fashionable notion that electric light, because it is adjustable and constant, is the best possible means for

the exhibition of pictures:

According to another widely accepted belief, natural light alters pigments, because of the ultraviolet V) rays emitted by the sun. However, it is organic pigments that are vulnerable to UV rays, not inorganic ones - those that generally constitute a painter's palette. Moreover, tungsten, halogen and neon also emit ultraviolet rays. But natural light can be directed and filtered, to block out the UV rays. The old studio practice of whitened windows, with a thinly sprayed layer of white water-based titanium dioxide, is the best and cheapest solution for accurate vision and

optimal protection. Architects and engineers are often among those who believe that intense artificial light affords better vision than daylight. The opposite. however, is the case chromatic perception is precise only in natural, preferably moderate light. Infinitesimal numbers of tone are visible under such a light that

cannot be perceived otherwise, because the lesser intensity of natural light stimulates the eye's tonal receptors, while an intense luminance inhibits them.

Vision under artificial light is affected by a static and shortened colour spectrum, which reduces the chromatic wavelengths available. The colours seen under such conditions are recognised mnemonically, through an operation called "colour constancy". But tone - chromatic hues and saturation - is suppressed under artificial light. Thus chromatic values are distorted.

Recall, for instance, what it is like to walk out of a shop saturated in electric light with a newly pur-chased half-tone jacket: you will find that its colour does not match the one you chose in the shop. This happens because colour constancy does not work for tonal vision. This is the point painters have always been in search of the right tone. All painters - from Titian to Mondri-

must be right. Imagine a concert hall in which the tonal range were truncated: there would be a public ouncry. When it comes to visual matters, though, the public re-mains remarkably ingenuous, and attuned to department-store lighting. The emotional impact of visual experience, and thus of qualitative discernment, depends on accurate conditions of perception.

The fate of our artistic heritage and our-visual culture lies in the hands of architects, lighting engineers, curators and above all museum directors. But their main concern is not to ensure that paintings be seen properly, but rather to satisfy an ever-growing, uninformed lay public. This public does not know that the addition of artificial to natural light inhibits tone and colour saturation, and annihilates the equalisation of simultaneous chromatic contrast - the chromatic effect produced by the justaposition of one colour next to the other that is the pivot of painting.

What remains of painting in artificial light is only its image — it is as if one took away from a wine its bouquet, to keep only the liquid. Deprived of natural light in public museums as well as commercial galleries, an entire generation has grown up without being able to see paintings in the right conditions. They are thus incapable of discerning, or ultimately of recognising, the pictorial subtleties that enable us to judge a picture's quality.

The distinguished Israeli artist Avigdor Arikha lives in Paris. Books on his work include 'Arikha by Sanuel Beckett. Robert Hughes et al (Thames & Hudson) and Arikha by Duncan Thompson (Phaldon). His own writings on art history include On Depiction (Bellew).

A flat rate

FRANK DOBSON, the barrelshaped Secretary of State for Health, appears be the first Cabinet minister in memory to be a council flat tenant. Mischievous sorts in Westminster are suggesting that Dobson, with his elevated status, should no inneer be entitled to the flat in a mansion block opposite the British Museum. With his MPs and his ministeri-

al salary. Dobson's income must be notching £100,000 per year. He has a second home in Yorkshire and is



Frank Dobson and the fancy block of council flats

a pillar of the new Establishment hardly the sant to need help with his housing or Camden council. But for many years, he has lived at Great Russell Mansions, which

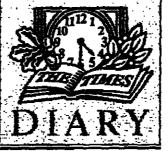
he lists as his address in Who's Who. For some time he was a private tenant, but then Camden bought the mansion block and he became a council tenant. "It's never been a secret," he said

yesterday of the flat which must be worth at least \$250,000 and for which sources suggest he pays just £150 a week. Camden yesterday admitted that its tenants benefited from low

rents. "Council tenants all pay different rates according to the size of the flat," says an expert, "But council rents are always a lot less than those in the private sector." By way of explanation to those hard-pressed nurses who might autibble at subsidised housing for the health minister. Dobson says:"I

There can be no surer sign of Labour's plans to reform the House of Lords than the appointment of John Heppell. MP for Nottingham East, as parliamentary private secretary to Lord Rich-

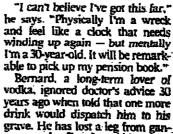
do not get any mertgage tax relief."



ard. Labour's leader in the Lords. Heppell, a former diesel fitter, made news some time ago when the NHS paid for the removal of tattoos on his knuckles which read "love" and "hate". Tory members are reaching for their smelling salts.

Well, well

A MILESTONE will be reached on Tuesday next week when, despite all the odds. Soho's greatest drinker Jeffrey Bernard becomes an old age pensioner. He is no longer his former spritely self, and he says lugubriously that he knows of no party being planned for him.



grene and suffers from kidney fail-



"Lets hope it can stay up there"

ure. "It's just frustrating that I'm no longer the first thing a fit young woman thinks of when she wakes up in the morning." Everybody should raise a glass to the old soak next week.

True love

A REASSURINGLY passionate performance can be expected in a new tape version of Romeo and Julier. The two principals, Kate Beckinsale and Michael Sheen, are stepping out together and are currently looking for a home together in west London.

This is Kate's second stab at Shakespeare - she shot to fame in Kenneth Branagh's Much Ado About Nothing soon after leaving Oxford. But the 23-year-old daughter of the late Porridge star Richard Beckinsale enjoyed herself, "especially as we are already so close". Sheen has now moved on to another fictional lover - as Oscar Wilde's boylriend in a new film.

Could Max Hastings, fly-fishing Editor of London's Evening Stan-dard, have been ghost-writing for the paper's proprietor Lord



Kate Beckinsale: passion

Rothermere, who has switched to the Labour benches in the House of Lords? In a piece in yesterday's paper under Lord Rothermere's name explaining why he changed sides, the description of the Tory party is pure Max "a magnificent salmon that :: spawns the next generation and drifts spent and



IN TRINITY

He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him

Tomorrow, Trinity Sunday, is unique among Christian testivals in that it celebrates neither a person nor an event, but the mystery of God. It is, if you like, pure white light into which the colours of the spectrum are gathered. As a feast of the Church it dates only from the mid-14th century, but it quickly came to enjoy a particular popularity in England. In the Book of Common Prayer the Sundays following it were named "after Trinity" — though a better title would be "in Trinity", reminding worshippers that this feast is not about abstract doctrine but about a divine life shared by grace.

In the world of theology one of the more remarkable features of the last 20 years has been a renewed concern for the implications of the doctrine of God as Trinity. If Marx, Freud and Nietzsche rejected God, the God they rejected was in many ways one framed in the image of abstract reason of Platonism combined with a monarchial imperialism.

The distant God of 18th-century Deism, and the inscrutable God of predestinarian Calvinism alike imprinted a pattern on the Western understanding of God, which had little place for God as Trinity.

And if by reaction from such a remote God, the immanence of God in the world was stressed, then God could be telescoped into the world without remainder. As Coleridge perceptively put it, "Pantheism is but a painted atheism — and the doctrine of the Trinity the only sure and certain bulwark against it." And why? Because God as Trinity is a God of grace, a God who saves, the Lord and Giver of life.

That human projections inevitably shape our image of God, we recognise as true, but so is the converse. Our image of God shapes our understanding of what it is to be human. All too often in the West the person has been identified with the individual with adverse consequence. Persons are related by definition, individuals are not. Atomised individualism - and an equally destructive collectivism as its polar opposite - have characterised much Western thinking. Both flow from the distorted doctrine of God, what some have described as the pathology of Western Christianity, a failure to take Trinitarian theology seriously.

At the heart of the doctrine of God as Trinity, is the conviction that God is a communion of persons. The great 4thcentury Greek theologians we know as the Cappadocian Fathers spoke of that communion as perichoresis, a divine round-dance of mutually indwelling love. They used such language, not out of a desire for complexity or abstraction, let alone the framing of a mathematical conundrum, but as a consequence of wrestling with what God must be if He had revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, and whose grace was known as His self-giving and transforming love.

The Trinity is what we mean when we say that God is love. That communion of love is the clue to our identity as those made in the image of God. As Charles Williams perceptively observed, it is as important to learn how we live from each other as how we are to live for each other - and that is true politically as well as personally.

Trinity Sunday summons us to discover our true identity as persons in relationship, made in the image of the God of love. And we can only do that when, like Margaret Clitheroe in Gerald Manley Hopkins' poem, we catch "the crying of those Three, the Immortals of the Eternal Ring, Utterer, Uttered, Uttering," and find that the God who is the source and goal of our being is grace and communion, and know that, in Traherne's words, "It is the glory of His high estate. He is an act that doth communicate."

CRAWLING OFF THE CANVASS

Policy not presentation is the problem for the Tories

Three weeks after their disastrous defeat at the hands of Tony Blair and new Labour, the parliamentary Conservative Party has finally shown the first small signs of emerging from the curious state of both denial and despair that has been dominant since John Major was ejected from Downing Street. In the absence of organised opposition from the Tories, the new Government. has stood astride British politics.

There are very legitimate reasons for the forces to conduct a wide-ranging examin tion of their internal affairs, party constitution, and method of selecting the leader. However, to have postponed the present battle to some later date and resorted to an interim arrangement would have been profoundly unwise. It would only have prolonged the agony of indecision. An impotent opposition would not have been in the best interests of party or country.

The six candidates for the Conservative leadership now know the rules by which the contest will be conducted. The phoney war is over and the real clash of ideas should begin. With some noble exceptions, ideas have been a rather undervalued commodity in the race so far. Instead, matters have centered on personalities and a rather unimpressive search for the mantle of "electability". Several aspirants have stressed the importance of instant mass public appeal in explaining the triumph of Tony Blair and implied that they alone can imitate it.

That is to misread much about the new Prime Minister's success. Mr Blair was not "electable" because he was a pretty face and smooth talker. He reaped his reward because he has stood for certain principles and taken real risks in the transformation of his own party. He has been willing to undertake a fundamental reevaluation of policy positions, many long-held and longcherished, and then act. In short, policy renewal and bold leadership explain why Labour won with a 179-seat majority.

For the past three weeks Conservatives have sought refuge in false explanations for their humiliation at the ballot box. The first reaction of many was to blame the voters: lamenting that an irrational 18-year itch had come over the country or protesting that Tory prosperity had made electing Labour seem safe. Disunity, poor presentation, and party structure have all been blamed for the meltdown. But that is to mistake cause and effect. The Conservatives lost public connosuce in the stimmin of 1997 with the Frim fiasco and duly lost office nearly five years later. They did so because of fundamental policy failure - especially on tax and Europe — and flawed political leadership. Division was the inevitable consequence.

tone. Too often, on the health service and schools especially, they adopted the language and style of the accountant or management consultant not sensitive statesman. The country is well aware that there are clear constraints on what can be spent on public services but does expect a little affection to be lavished on limited budgets. Unpopular decisions are always necessary - Lady Thatcher made them an article of faith — but must be seen to serve a real purpose. Conservatives would also be unwise to dismiss the sleaze factor as a mere media mania that will soon slip away.

The Tories also need to consider their

There is much that needs to be done about the structure of the Conservative Party. But Tories need to rebuild their machine and membership from the local branch upwards. Certain leadership candidates appear unduly impressed by Labour's Millbank Tower. The Tories must modernise not Mandelsonise. There is no solution in seeking a svengali. Instead Conservatives must acknowledge that policy and leadership have been the source of their misfortune and are the sole means of their revival. The candidate who best recognises that reality deserves the support of his colleagues.

OFF OUR TROLLIES

Supermarkets know a thing or two about the way we wheel

Grabbing the groceries will never be the same again. Tesco have launched their new high-tech shopping trolley. Designed in deep secrecy, during an offensive known as "Operation Sparkle", the supermarket superpower have spent £4 million in pursuit of the perfect vehicle - one that will actually travel in the direction it is pushed. Twelve months of intensive research has apparently paid off. If the reviews are to be believed, the new design will end the well-known steering problems that made the average shopping trip a close cousin to a day on the dodgems.

Some people, of course, will wonder whether the effort has been worth the investment. After all, supermarket trollies can be discovered in the most extraordinary places: carparks, rivers, towerblocks, on top of mountains, almost anywhere except the immediate surroundings of a supermarket. Others will wonder how, even if the sleek new vehicles can be kept on site, it can possibly make commercial sense for Tesco to put so much time and effort into what is,

after all, only a shopping accessory. That would be to misunderstand the nature of the creature. The cunning chaps at Tesco know that a trolley is far more than a device for transporting goods, it determines the character of the purchases themselves. Supermarket shopping is measured, psychologically, in the proportions of a trolley.

A full load is indication of a decent effort. A few items languishing at the bottom of a vast receptacle is cause for much embarrassment at the checkout line. This might explain why superstores have slowly increased the capacity of the average consumer chariot by fourfold in the last four decades.

Few can resist peering into other customer's trollies while waiting in line. All sorts of judgments are instantly made about the income, lifestyle, and personality of a stranger on that basis. A supermarket subculture of snobbery exists whereby you are what you buy, or rather, what you are seen to have bought. Our vanity is exploited by the grocery giants. How long before the double-decker or stretch-limo trolley is introduced so that we can really show off at our expense and their profit?

A few brave souls resist the trend. Plucking up enormous courage, they either abandon all artificial assistance in favour of their bare hands or take the humble basket. The sneaky supermarkets have a ready response for such rebels. In the first case, a small army of security guards are deployed to issue accusations of shopkeeping. In the second, decades of conspicuous refusal to modernise the item have made the basket a beast of burden. Every way we turn (more efficiently now) the Tesco troops have us covered. We must be off our trollies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Winners and losers under Labour's windfall tax

From Mr Ian Taylor. MP for Esher and Walton (Conservative)

Sir, As Simon Jenkins clearly implies today ("Monopoly game over"), Sir Iain Vallance, Chairman of BT. can hardly say he was not warned that his company was among those targeted for the proposed windfall tax. As long ago as 1995, as Minister for Technology. I suggested to him that cuddly deals between BT and the Labour Party would end in tears.

Behaving like a utility results in being treated as one. By offering BT release from the only restriction placed upon it (no simultaneous broadcasting of BBC, ITV, etc., to homes on its existing network before 2001), Labour paid no attention to the risk to the cable industry's expanding telephone services.

In return for potential increased market dominance, BT only promised connections to schools, which it and its rivals are already carrying out.

Yet BT is still right to complain about the windfall tax. If the Government wants to apply a retrospective levy on BT, why not on its 150 or so competitors? Is the allegation that Oftel's regulations have been too generous to BT? If so, it is a claim that BT's millions of shareholders would not accept, while customers must be puzzled about receiving a cut in call costs of 40 per cent or more in real

Does it make sense to hit BT when it has already launched its network upgrade in response to competition? And why penalise BT now when it is taking advantage of telecoms liberalisation in the EU and internationally with extensive joint ventures?

For BT, it does not always pay to

Yours faithfully. IAN TAYLOR, House of Commons.

From the Chairman of the

and discredited

League Against Cruel Sports

Sir, Each of Libby Purves's argu-

ments for the retention of hunting

with hounds (Wrong scent, Mr

Blair", May 20) has been tried, tested

The Labour Government, which

has at its heart the development of a

moral, caring, compassionate society,

instinctively rejects any activity which

results in the needless and gratuitous

carnage that is the hallmark of the

I find Ms Purves's approval of

blooding", the daubing of blood on a

child's face after an animal has been

ing. Given the possible psychological

effects upon the child of this experi-

ence, I hope that the Government will

abolish the medieval practice of the

hunt as soon as effectively possible.

Sir, Libby Purves is right to question

the motives of the hunt abolitionists.

Here in the West Country our glorious

herds of red deer on Exmoor and the

Quantocks are facing the threat of

extinction thanks to ill-informed and

insensitive anti-hunt campaigning.

Colourful clergy

League Against Cruel Sports,

83-87 Union Street, SEl.

From Mr Denys White

Yours sincerely, JOHN COOPER,

Sparling House,

Chairman.

May 20.

mutilated by hounds, quite stagger-

From Mr Andrew Boff

Sir, Simon Jenkins's defence of the Government's windfall tax recognises the PR strings that the Labour Party pulled when selling the idea. The idea of taxing the fat cats and the ones who made a quick profit from the sale of shares in the utilities is one which the public felt would be a good idea.

It is, of course, nonsense that these terrible criminals (we all know the type: investors, successful managers, etc) will be caught by the tax. They have already sold their shares, already been paid their bonuses. The people who will suffer as a result of the windfall tax are the customers of the utilities (ie, just about everybody) who will see their bills rise, current shareholders and the majority of the 23 million people who have pension funds invested in the utilities.

The fat cats will not be touched. Presentation is everything.

ANDREW BOFF. 9 Queensbridge Road, E.2.

From Mrs Judith Robinson

Sir, As your City Editor hints (Commentary, May 21), if the Chancellor wants to levy a windfall tax he need look no further than the windfall which the building society and insurance company demutualisations are bestowing upon a large part of the population.

The beneficiaries are effectively getting something for nothing, so to tax it could hardly be deemed unfair. A tax on the value of shares allocated, at the basic rate of income tax, could generate up to £5 billion, depending on whether or not it was levied retrospectively and it would reduce the inflationary pressure of the share distributions.

It would also be fairly easy to collect - the registrars could provide the names and addresses of everyone receiving the shares and the number of

These herds are protected and pre-

served as the result of the deer man-

agement programmes of committed

local people. Banning the hunts will

lead to indiscriminate shooting of deer

and ultimately their total elimination.

What a sad legacy to pass to future

be hijacked by sentimentalists but

compassionate views of country

Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset.

Sir, Libby Purves states that fox hunt-

ing is a "pastime that amuses hun-

dreds and employs thousands". She

might have mentioned that this

"sport" disgusts hundreds of thou-

sands and that includes many of us

Sir, Libby Purves is to be congratu-

lated on producing one of the most in-

telligent and far-sighted pieces of the

Our new Government should not

generations.

people.

Yours etc.

DENYS WHITE,

From Mr Hermann Arndt

who live in the countryside.

Castlehaye, Woodbury, Devon.

HERMANN ARNDT,

From Mr Derrik Smith

Higher Terhill,

Yours sincerely,

shares granted - and a fair value could be ascribed based on the price given to those who elect to sell at the opening auction.

Such a tax would no doubt be unpopular, hitting so many people so directly. A levy on utilities is seen as more acceptable, because many people do not recognise that the Chancellor will thereby plunder their pensions and equity savings (such as life policies and unit trusts); the illusion is that someone else will pay.

Is this an opportunity for the Chancellor to show that he can be honest on this score.

Yours faithfully, J. A. ROBINSON, Cobdown. Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Kent. May 22.

From Mr S. D. Gander

Sir. As a British Telecom shareholder. I support the objectives of the Blair Government because I consider the use of the windfall tax as absolutely

The privatised industries should be proud to be the instruments of good. There are many injured people in Britain's economy and going to their rescue is honourable and human.

The utilities and other industries took the gifts offered by the previous government and found they were able to make hay aplenty. They will, by dint of shrewd management and opportunism, be able to go on making yet greater stacks, although some of their workers, made redundant, have less cause to smile.

We must do our best for our youthful workless ones and cut out the cancer of welfare dependency - so come on lads, be ready to give the Government (chosen by the people) a hand.

Yours faithfully, S. D. GANDER, 14 Keble Lawns, Fairford, Gloucestershire.

Libby Purves intervenes in debate on hunting noted that

the concept of cruelry presents numerous inconsistencies and anomalies. In many in-stances the most vigorous denouncers of one form of cruelty applaud some other form of cruelty. It always was so, It probably always will be so.

It is interesting that, whilst taking the high moral ground against hunting with hounds, new Labour appears to sunnort game shooting Morley, now Minister for the Countryside, stated in a radio debate last February that he saw no problem with ferreting or "lamping" for wild animals at night.

With such duality of principle being clearly evident in this debate, perhaps the wisest approach is for all sides to show some tolerance. This is precisely the quality that Tony Blair espoused after his election victory. Is new Labour really saying that the minority who hunt with hounds have no place in a multi-racial, multi-cultural

Libby Purves is right. Hunting as we know it is probably doomed anyway. But it will die due to the lack of space caused by growing urbanisa-tion. Labour should refrain from hastening the end of this piece of cultural identity by using the statute book this would mark them as increasingly authoritarian.

Yours faithfully. DERRIK SMITH. Upany Barn. Ardeley, Hertfordshire.

current debate on hunting with In his History of Cockfighting, pub-lished in the 1970s, George Ryley Scott May 20.

Russia and Nato

From Mr Roderick MacLean

Sir. I am old enough to remember when no self-respecting bishop would have stepped out of his palace unless formally attired in top hat (with rigging), apron, frock coat and gaiters. It made my day to see one pass by in full

I confess I was quite taken aback by your report on new clerical styles "Clergy glory in heavenly creations". May 20) and the accompanying photograph. At first sight I thought this green chasuble must be an exotic species of giant lepidoptera, newly discovered in some Borneo jungle.

On reading further I encountered the Reverend Mrs Val Hamer's fellow minister, from "his designer stubble to his media-aware poses". I then realised that it was all a breakfast-time nightmare. Whatever next?

Do the various church authorities have no dress regulations? I suggest that the man and woman in the pew would prefer a measure of unexciting decorum rather than an ecclesiastical Carnaby Street.

Yours sincerely, RODERICK MacLEAN. 4-8 Belhaven Place, Edinburgh. May 20.

From Mr K. L. Rawling

Sir, May I remind members of the clergy contemplating the idea that sartorial embellishment could increase their spiritual prowess of Matthew vii. 20, in which Our Lord tells us that by their fruits we will know them, not their suits.

Yours etc. K. L. RAWLING. 10 Somerville Terrace. Otley, West Yorkshire.

From Dr Marek Laskiewicz

Sir, A capitalist, democratic Russia, being weak, can be pressurised into accepting an eastward expansion of the West, eg. of Nato (report, May 15), as I have stated since June 1991 and explained in Russia and World War III (Krzenwic, 1993); but her consequent fear and humiliation may give rise to a neocommunist dictatorship there. just as Weimar Germany's failure gave rise to Hitler. Russia is not entirely finished.

Yours faithfully, MAREK LASKIEWICZ, 39 Queen Elizabeth's Walk, N16.

Author's view From Mr David Lockwood

Sir, Lady Antonia Fraser is too trusting (letter, May 19; see also letter, May 20). The conditions attached to an exgratia payment to public libraries for books must exclude videotapes, music CDs, CD-Roms and Internet hardware and software if there is to be any possibility that it will be spent in the wholly desirable manner she suggests. Librarians are jackdaws.

Yours faithfully, DAVID LOCKWOOD, 11 Dale Street. Learnington Spa, Warwickshire. May 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may he sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Minimum wage

From Mr Nigel L. Denton

Sir, If the proposed minimum wage is implemented as £4 per hour it will provide an annual income of £8,320 r a 40 hour week.

Having just completed my 1996-97 tax return. I am left wondering why the personal allowance for a single person in that tax year was only £3,765, and the additional allowance for a married couple was only £1,790.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL L. DENTON. 12 Maria Court, Southcote Road. Reading, Berkshire. May 18.

High standards From the Reverend John F. White

Sir. My best wishes to Michael Foale

on his mission to repair the Russian Mir space station in addition to conducting scientific experiments (report, May 16). However, I hope he realises the

weight of tradition he bears on his shoulders as a British handyman. On examining the problem, he should scratch his head and say: "I

don't like the look of that. You're going to need a new one. It's going to cost

He should then disappear for a fortnight, return with the wrong parts and tools, and then retire for a prolonged tea-break.

Yours faithfully, JOHN F. WHÍTE, St James Vicarage, 3 Church Lane, Chapelthorpe, Wakelield, West Yorkshire. May 22.

Moves to save Oxford's Bacon

From Mr Reginald Alton

Sir. No one can fault the taste and artistic acumen of the undergraduates of Pembroke College, Oxford, in the decade after the end of the Second World War.

Not only did they purchase a Bacon painting in 1953 (report and photo-graph, May 16) but their subscription and loan scheme was the model and inspiration for many other colleges. Nor can we doubt their generosity and community spirit in 1990, when they solved the problem of security by lending the Bacon to the Ashmolean Museum where it could be seen and valued by all citizens of Oxford as well

as by members of the university. However, the sale - originally proposed in order to mitigate a likely rise in college charges — will inevitably be interpreted by the public as yet another example of Oxford University's embracing a culture of self-interest rather than of the public good. No amount of talk about bursaries for poor students of the fine arts will

disguise the impression that, for gain, the present-day undergraduates of Pembroke College are about to deprive the city, the university and themselves of access to an important work of art whose purchase exemplified the cultural aspirations of a generation emerging from war. Is it too late to hope that some re-

source may be found to keep the painting in the Ashmolean?

Yours faithfully, R. G. ALTON. St Edmund Hall, Oxford. May 17.

From Mr P. R. Mille "

Sir. I was secretary or the Junior Common Room at Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1947 when the "kitty" scheme for buying paintings was initiated, by a huge majority, under the inspiration of one Tony Emery who had access to Sir Kenneth Clark. Tony was an enthusiast for contemporary British paintings and persuaded Clark to select the first half dozen for us.

Over the years the collection has had no easy ride. Some years ago a heathen generation of undergraduates threw out the paintings and they were relegated to a cellar to rot.

However, a few years ago they were rescued by a more enlightened generation and a selection was beautifully exhibited during Eights Week.

By this time the collection had come again to the notice of the Senior Common Room, at a time when the college was in dire financial straits. There was a suggestion that the collection should be sold for the benefit of the development fund, but this was scotched by Sir Frank Cooper, my contemporary and by then an honorary fellow, who convinced the SCR that the paintings belonged to the

undergraduates. Needless to say the eminent legal eagles from amongst us have been concerned with the legal rights of ownership by a shifting population (ie. of undergraduates).

But, with the forthcoming auction of the Francis Bacon, all. by the grace of God, appears now to have been resolved.

I am. Sir. your obedient P. R. MILLEST, The Old School. Hogshill Street, Beaminster, Dorset. May 17.

Proms under fire

From the President of the United Kingdom Sibelius Society

Sir, I read Mr David Green's letter (May 17) with considerable sympathy. Although I have a natural corner to fight (and it has been a long, hard fight over 35 years) I am, too, appalled at the neglect of British music in general and specific composers in particular in this year's season of Proms.

Sir Michael Tippett, whom I regard as the greatest composer of his generation and who, of course, is still happily among us, is represented by one work. The eclipse of Walton's wonderful music is scandalous in a festival of music in Britain.

We have mainstream 20th-century composers whose music is often better appreciated in America and Australia than in their home country. Delius knew all about this perverse artistic thinking and had many quotable things to say about it. It does seem as if nothing has changed since the early years of this century and although Sibelius is happily rehabilitated this year, pride in my British heritage is

Yours sincerely. EDWARD W. CLARK. President, UK Sibelius Society, 5 Fitzwilliam Road, SW4. May 19.

Sporting chance

From Mr Brendan Hugh Powell Sir. You report (news in brief, May 14)

that a Bradford pub is to stage an annual cricket match to determine which team shall hold the urn bearing the ashes of one of its former patrons. Could the England team not be invited to compete, perhaps in a three cornered competition, so that they

might have a reasonable prospect of

winning the ashes from time to time?

Yours sincerely. B. H. POWELL, 46 Rooks Avenue Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire

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roup. **B/003**



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 23: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning arrived at Heworth Station and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison) and the Mayor of Gateshead (Councillor Francis Donovan). Her Majesty drave to South Tyneside Magistrates Court. Millbank, and, having inspected a (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers), was received by the Chairman IMrs

Ann Darling and the Mayor of South Tyraside (Councillor Mrs Catherine Brown).

The Queen viewed a display of the old and new Courthouse and toured the new building.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, later visited Sigmens Microelectronics Limited. Silverlink, Newcastle upon Tyne.

and was received by the Managing Director (Dr Adolf Scheibe) and the Mayor of North Tyneside (Councillor Edward Darke). The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the building before Her Majesty opened Sie-mens Wafer Fabrication Facility.

This oftermoon Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were entertained to Luncheon at Newcastle United Football Club and were received by the Chairman (Sir John Hall) and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Councillor Mrs Isabell

Afterwards The Oueen and The Duke of Edinburgh met young sportsmen and women from the North East. His Royal Highness visited 607

(Wearmouth) Squadron, Douglas Road, Seaburn, this morning and was received by Colonel Hugh Brown (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear).

Royal engagement

TODAY: The Queen will visit the Municipa Buildings, Stirling, at 6.30: will visit the Church of the Holy Rude at 7.05 and will attend a dinner at Stirling Castle to mark the 50th anniversary of her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at 7.25.

St Benedict's School, Ealing

The Old Priorian Association Dinner, for OPs and guests, will be held on July 5 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London, Details from Dorothy Cullinane 01923 250640.

University news Cranfield

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Cranfield University will confer honorary degrees on the following Environment Agency: Sir Richard Evans, chief executive, British Aerospace: Mr Eddie George, governor, Bank of England; General Sir Charles Guthrie. Chief of Defence Staff; Mr Richard Hardwicke. Cranfield University; Sir John Horlock, former Vice-Chan-cellor, Open University: Mr Bo Kjellen, Swedish diplomat; Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, British

Airways: Mr Hiroshi Sato, presi-

dent. TDK Corporation: Mr Zhu Yuli. president. Aviation In-

dustries of China.

Appointments

Mr Roger Thomas to be Ambas-sador to the Azerbaijan Republic from July in succession to Mr Thomas Young who is moving to a Diplomatic Service

HMS Warrior 1860 Rear-Admiral David Bawtree to be Chairman of the Trustees from September in place of Sir Philip Goodhart, Captain David Newberry to be Captain in place of Captain Fraser Morgan from

The King's Fund Rabbi Julia Neuberger to be Secretary and Chief Executive of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London (the King's Fund) from December 1 in succession to Dr Robert Maxwell Foundation of Science

Outober.

and Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding has been appointed Chairman of the Council of the Foundation of Science and Technology in succession to Lord Butterworth who has been appointed president.

Legal Mr John Barnes to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, des-ignated as a Special Adjudicator, from July I. He will sit in Greater

Latest wills

Daniel Maurice Tree. of Chigwell. Essex. left estate valued at £2,998,936 net.

St Edward's School, Oxford

Today is Gaudy Day. The preacher is the Rev A.D.G. Vright. Dr Eric Anderson, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, will present the prizes and address the School, Over El million has been added to the Endowment Fund. enabling the award of more Scholarships, which are anbelow, with other

For entry to the Shells in September 1997:

Major Scholarships
The Brewer-Williams Scholarships:
Charles Rome. St Piran's. Maidenhead: Thomas Waterfield. Summer Fields. Oxford: The Lord Hallfax Scholarship. Nicholas Daves. St Authyn's Rotungdean: The Reynolds Scholarship Filzabeth Yarrow, St Hugh's Fartingdon. The Ecerton Scholarship Filzabeth Yarrow, St Hugh's Fartingdon. The Ecerton Scholarship Filzabeth Yarrow, St Hugh's Fartingdon. The Ecerton Scholarship Filzabeth Joneyin MacFartane. Frideswide Scholarship: Joneyin MacFartane. Frideswide Scholarship Scholarship Joneyin MacFartane. Frideswide Scholarship Joneyin MacFartane. Frideswide Scholarship Joneyin Scholarship Jun Yamamota. Crostields. Reading Exhibitions

Crostields, Reading
Eshibitions
Dortald Eastwood, Aningdon
School, Simon Fox, Moulsford,
Douglas Heller, Moulsford,
Oleo-Cloyd, Drugon School, Oxford:
Dominic Rodgers, St. Andrews,
Pantibourne: Oliver St. John,
Summer Fields, Oxford Douglas
Bader Awards; Marthew Venzin, West
Hill Para School, Titchfield, Alex

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Borthwick, Moulsford Art Exhibitions: Michael Lambourn, Dragon School, Oxford: Bea Tadros, Oxford High School, HM Forces Exhibitions: Sophie Lavender, Contesmore, Pease Postage: Simon Viney, Lockers Park, Hemel Hempstead. Masic Scholarship Elizabeth Yarrow, St Hugh's School, Faringdon

Elizabeth Yarrow, St Hugh's School. Faringdon.

Music Ethibition
Jun Yamamoto. Crosffeids, Reading.

Rotherfield Awards
James Barrett. Moulsford: Sarah
Blackett. Cottesmore. Pease Purtage:
Charlotte Forde. Dragon School.

Oxford: Crystal Logan. Dragon
School. Oxford: Thomas Newell. St
Hugh's Fanngdon. Victoria Putt. St
Andrews. Pangbourne: Charles
Sunon. Christ Church Cathedral
School. Oxford.

Continuation Awards (for entry to
the Shells in September 1999)

Ben Blackman. St Hugh's Faringdon: Andrew Stevenson. St Piran's.
Maidenhead. Han Gullanl. Gayhurst School. Gernards Cross. John
Adrian-Vallance. Dragon School.

Oxford: Sopnie Panicheff. Sallsbury
Cathedral School. Mingain Ritchie.
Josca's Preparatury School. Frilford:
Guy John. Papplewick, Ascot
For enin to the Lower Sixth In For entry to the Lower Sinth In September 1997:

September 1997
Scholarship: Sarah
Phe Cooper Scholarship: Sarah
Russell, king Edward VI Camp Hill,
Jennifer Austen, Oxford High
School, katerina Cannon, Dr
Challoners, Little Challont,
Ethiblions
Chine Emmens, Wyshwood School,
Oxford: Tom Fraser, Pongbourne
College (Rotherfield Eahiblion),
Julia Kanenick, Oxford High School
Musico

Weekend birthdays

حكذا من الاصل

TODAY: Sir James Anderton, former Chief Constable, Greater Manchester, 65; Mr Stanley Baxter, comedian, 71; the Duke of Bedford, 80; Sir Timothy Bevan, former chairman. Barclays Bank, 70: Mr Keith J. Budge, Headmaster, Loretto School, 40: Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, 80; Mr Eric Cantona, footballer, 31; Sir Roden Cutler, VC, diplomat, SI: Mr Bob Dylan, singer, 56, Miss Kathleen Hale, author and illustrator, 99; Mr B.L. Hallward, former Vice-Chancellor, Nottingham University, 96: Mr Robert Hastie, Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorean. 64; Sir Terry Heiser, civil servant, 65; Sir Derek Hodgson, former High Court judge, 80; Baroness Hollis of Heigham, 56; Mr Clifford Irving, former chairman, executive council. Isle of Man Government, 83: Colonel John Mayo, former director-general, Help the Aged. 66: Mr Adrian Moorhouse, swimmer. 33: Mr Tony Mullett, former director-general, National Crim-inal Intelligence Service, 64: Mr Steven Norris, former MP, 52: Mr Luke Ritmer, former secretary-general, Arts Council of Great Britain, 50; Sir Edmund Sargant,

solicitor, 91; the Hon Christopher

Sharples, chairman, Datastream/-ICV, 50: Lord Justice Staughton,

64: Mr William Trevor, writer, 69:

BIRTHS: Gabriel Daniel Fahr-

enheit, inventor of the mercury

thermometer, Gdansk, 1686; Jean

Paul Marat, revolutionary. Neu-

sington Palace. 1819; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist. London,

1855: Jan Christiaan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa 1919-24 and 1939-48. Riebeck West, Cape

DEATHS: David I, King of Scot-land 1124-53, Carlisle, 1153; Coper-

nicus, astronomer, Frembork, Poland, 1543; Robert Cecil, Ist Earl

of Salisbury, statesman, Marl-borough, Wiltshire, 1612: Archi-

bald Wavell, ist Earl Wavell, field

marshal, Viceroy of India 1943-47, London, 1950; John Foster Dulles,

TODAY

Colony, 1870.



Liz McColgan, athlete, is 33 today; JulianClary, comedian and actor, will be 38 tomorrow

Mr Arnold Wesker, playwright, 65; the Earl of Woolton, 39. TOMORROW: Lord Aldington, 83; Mr Kim

Bailey, racehorse trainer, 44; Mr M.A. Butt, former chairman, Ea-M.A. Buil, former charman, Ea-gle Star Holdings, 55; Dr Carel de Wet, former South African dip-lomat, 73; Miss Margaret Forster, author, 59; Miss Livia Gollancz, publisher, 77; Sir Eldon Griffiths. former MP, 72: Mr Tony Hall, former director, Rea Brothers Group. 58: Baroness Hooper, 58: Sir Joseph Hotung, company chairman, 67: Sir Ralph Howell, former MP, 74; Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, Lord Lyon King of Arms, 59; Sir Julian Loyd, former land agent to The Queen, San-dringham estate, 71; Sir lan McKellen, actor, 58; the Right Rev Michael Mann, KCVO, former Dean of Windsor, 73: Mr Dillwyn Miles, The Herald Bard, 81; Lord Plummer of St Marylebone, 83; Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP, 59; His Honour Alastair Sharp, QC, 86; Miss Beverly Sills, operatic so-prano, 68; Professor Sir Francis Vallat, QC, 85; Mr David Wynne,

Anniversaries

US Secretary of State 1953-59. Washington, 1959; Duke Ellington, pianist and bandleader, New Dartmoor prison was opened to chatel. Switzerland, 1743; Queen Victoria, reigned 1837-1901. Ken-

house French prisoners-of-war, Westminster Bridge opened over the Thames, 1862. Brooklyn Bridge opened over the

East River, 1883.

HMS Hood was sunk by the Bismarck off Greenland. 1941. TOMORROW BIRTHS: John Stuart Bute, 3rd Earl of Bute, Prime Minister 1762-63, Edinburgh, 1713; Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1803; Tom Sayers,

champion bare-knuckle fighter, Brighton, 1826: Max Aitken, 1st

Baron Beaverbrook, newspaper

proprietor, Maple, Ontario, 1879; Igor Sikorsky, pioneer of the helicopter, Kiev, 1889; Gene Tunney, boxer, New York City, 1897; Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter, Alton, DEATHS: The Venerable Bede. theologian, Jarrow, 735; Gustave Holst, composer, London, 1934; Jacques Feyder, film director, Swizerland, 1948; Robert Capa,

photographer, killed in Vietnam, The Philadelphia Convention met to draw up the US Constitution.

The Bank Holidays Act was passed, 1871. Jesse Owens, the American ath lete, set five new world records and equalled a sixth in less than one hour at Michigan, 1935.

Dinners

Air Force Board

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, and members of the Air Force Board were the hosts at a dinner held last night at RAF Bendey Priory on behalf of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association. Viscount Chelsea, the Chairman of the African National Congress, the Chairman of Armscor and the Chairman of the RAF Benevolent Fund were among the guests.

Company of Chartered

Secretaries and Administrators
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by speaker at the annual livery dinner of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Geoffrey Finn, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided Rear-Admiral James Carine, Se-nior Warden, and Sir James Duncan also spoke. Among others

present were:
The Dean of St Paul's, and the Masters of the Saddlers, Clockmakers, Tallow Chandlers, Masons, Markerors, Chartered Accountants and Puellers' Companies and the Master Cutter in Hallamshire.

Goild of Management

Mr Brian O'Rorke, The Master assisted by the Wardens, presided at the Annual Master's Dinner an the Animal Massay, May 22, at Painters' Hall. The Right Hon Lord Bingham of Cornhall. Dr Mary Archer and Mr Will Hutton were the guest speakers.

Service

dinner

Royal Naval College Greenwich Commander J.M.C. Maughan Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a dinner held last night at the college for the Central Support staff and honorary and associate members. Rear-Admiral David Macey was the principal speaker.

Lord Hardie

The life barony conferred upon Mr Andrew Rutherford Hardie, Lord Advocate, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Hardie, of Blackford in the City of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.M. Beresford and Miss J.L. Moore

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of the late Mr Michael Beresford and of Mrs fill Beresford, of Bathford, Somerser, and Joanna, daughter of the late Mr Michael Moore and of Mrs Judith Moore of West Clandon, Surrey.

Mr M.A. Bevington and Miss T. Ton

The engagement is announced between Mark son of Mr and Mrs. David Bevington, of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Thida, daughter of Dr K. Tun and Dr M.M. Soc, of Salthurn, Cleveland. Mr A. Chamberlain

and Miss V.E. Visser The engagement is announced between Arthur, son of the late Mr and Mrs Arthur Chamberlain, of and Mrs Armir Chamberian, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Vivien, daughter of Mr Schalk Visser, of Johannesburg, and Mrs Yvome Visser, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr B.M. Dick

and Miss J.A. Murphy
The engagement is announced
between Brian, second son of Mr and Mrs George Dick, of Rosin, Midlothian, and Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Murphy, of Dumbarton, Dunbartonshire.

Mr R. Hatchwell and Mrs M. Prophet The engagement is announced between Mr Richard Hatchwell. husband of the late Mary, and Mrs Mary Prophet, wife of the late

Mr M. Hockings, FRCSEd, and Miss C.P. Fensome The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs R.G. Hockings, of Fleetwood, Lancasthre, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Fensenne, of Famborough, Hampshire.

Mr H.G. Lindh and Miss S.M. Thomas

The engagement is amnounced between Hans, son of the late Mr Kurt Lindh, of Kubikenborg Sweden, and of Mrs Birgitta Lindh of Prostviken, Sweden and Sandra May, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Thomas, of The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and

Mrs Phillip Marriage, of Blackmore, Essex, and Donna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Buckle, of Fryerning. Essex. Mr J.C. Minter and Miss V.W. Killay The engagement is announced between Jonathan Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Minter, of

Boxted, Essex, and Victoria Wendy, younger daughter of the late Dr William Killay, of Washington DC, and of Mrs David Woodrow, of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Oxfordshire,

Mr C.J. Seth and Miss B. Pinelli The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Seth, of Blackheath, and Benedetta, daughter of Prof.ssa Vanda Perretta and Dr Cario Alberto Pinelli, of Rome

Mr R.H. Woodwa and Miss LJ. Bell The engagement is announced between Robert Henry, son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Woodward, of

Paignton, Devon, and Lisa Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Bell, of Redditch, Worcestershire. Mr T. Wykes and Miss D. James

The engagement is announced between Tom, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nick Wykes, of Lealholm North Yorkshire, and Danielle elder daughter of Mrs Ian Dear, of West Wimbledon, London.

Marriage Mr A.A. Cowgill and Dr A.F. McCrae

The marriage took place on April 28, 1997, at Prestonfield House, Edinburgh, of Mr Andrew Cowgill, son of Brigadier and Mrs Anthony Cowgill, of Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, to Dr Anne McCrae, daughter Mrs and Mrs Alternation Money Cowgill, of Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, to Dr Anne McCrae, daughter Mrs and Mrs Alternation Money Company Mrs Alternation Money Company Company Mrs Alternation Money Company Compan of Mr and Mrs Alexander McCrae, of Strathpeller, Ross-shire.

Lincoln's Inn

Pont Street, SWI: 11 Rev C I MacLeod; 6.30 Ret WA Calms. ST GEORGE'S. Harrover Square. WI: 8.30 HC; 11 8 Euch, Stanford in A. The Rector.

rm, 4: 8 Email, Stanford III A, The Rector. ST IAMESTS, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10,388 Euch, Darke in R minor, Hyrnn to the Trinky, (Tchrikovsky), Rev D Lawson; 6 Ch E, Purcell in E minor, Hyrnn to the Trinky (Tchrikovsky).

ST IAMES'S. Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP

Mr Roger Kaye, QC, Mr Nicholas Patten, QC, and Mr Michael Horo-witz, QC, have been elected Benchezs of Lincoln's Inn.

Church services tomorrow

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch, With all our hearts and mouths (Tailis), The Provost; 6.30 ES. Noble in a minor.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M. Hymn to the Trinity (Tchaikovsky), The Dean: 3.15 Ch E. Harwood (n A flat, God is gone up [Finzl).

(Finzi).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Te Deum (Ambroslan), Judge eterbal (Marchant), 13 Sung Euch, 1 sat down (Balristow), Missa collegium regale (Howells); 3.30 Ch E. O come ye servants ffyel. Zadok the Priest (Hanoel). (Handel).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15
HC: I I Ch Euch, Mass for four voices (Tallis).
Duo Seraphim (Victoria). Ven John Banton: 4
Ch E. Howells in E. Great Lord (Wood). BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M: 10.30 Euch; 4 Choral E. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch. 11 Euch. Francis Jackson in G. Canon G H Thomas: 3.30 E. Steiner in B flat, 1 saw the Lord Istainer).

Stainer).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL College Green: 7.40
M. 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch. O quam gloriosum
(Victorial, Missa Brevis (Mozari), The Dean:
3.30 E. Responses (Byrd). I saw the Lord
(Stainer). Canon John Simpson. Staineri. Canon John Stingson.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9:30 M.
Te Deum in G (Williams), Jubilate in E flat
(Britten). The Dean; 11 S Euch. Missa brevia
(Walton). Rev R C H Symon; 5.15 E. Wood in
F. Let their celestial concerts (Handel).
CARLISEE CATHEDRAL: (10:30 S Euch. Aston
In F. O most merciful (Wood). Canon Res
Chapman: 3 E. Moeran in D. Hymn to the
Trinity (Tchalkovsky).
CHEIMSOND CATHEDRAL: 7 MMP 8 MC.
CHEIMSOND CATHEDRAL: 7 MMP 8 MC.

Trinity (Tchalkovsky).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7:30 MP, 8 HC. 4:30 Euch, Canon Barry Thompson: 11:15 S

Euch, Agnus Dei (Motet), Lady Mass for Chelmsford (Tambivni: 6 Ch E. Even Song (Tambiyn), Canon David Knight. (Tamblyn), Canon David Knight. CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Ch Euch, Ireland in C. At the Peace, God is living if 5 Bachl, Canon Michael Rees; 3:30 Ch E. A Hymn to the Trinty (Leighton), Surrision in A: 6:30 ES, Cathedral Nave Choir, Canon M

Rees.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: S. HC: 10 M., Ireland in F. The Chancellon: il S. Euch, Mass of the Hole Tranky Walshy, Rv. Derek Hole: 3 30 E. St. Paul's Service 'Howells'. I saw the Lord Stainer!
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Oxford: 10 M. Stoggall in B flot. Carent Webs'er: 1: 15 S. Euch, Missa et ovum omna Hoult. College Chaplain. 6 E. Collegium Regale 'Croff... O rez gioriae (Mason: res gloriae (Mason) COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 740 MP. 8 C-10,30 Euch, Ireland in C. Hymn to the Trinity (Tchalkovsky). Canon Valenne Fault, 5 E. Hereford Service (Lloyd), and when the builders (Shephard.) DURHAM CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10 M. Te Durham Cathedral 8 HC: 10 M. Te Durh In G 'Stanford', Jubi Zie Deo in C (Bhiten), Canon R Coppini 11,15 HC, Missa Super O magnum myyenum Nicomaj.

minor.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch.

Missa Brevis (Abrams), Jubilate in F
(Ireland), Canon Mark Farter; 3.45 E, Ireland In F.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch.
Messe Solenneile (Vierne). Rev Danier, 11,15
M. Te Deum (Gibbons, short serv). A: Hymn
to the Trinity. Tchalkovsky, The Dean; 3 E.
Sumston In A: 6.30 E. A: Hymn to the Trinity
(Tchalkovsky). Preb C Pidsley.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15
Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon
Nell Heavisides: 12.15 HC: 3 E. Holy Holy
Holy (Sumston). Holy (Sumston).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 Hc; 9.45 S

Euch, Cherubic Hymn (Tchaikovsky), Miss

Enid Mellor: 11.15 M, Jubilate (Amner),

Almighty God (Ford), Rev J G Claric 6.30 E.

Stanford in 8 liat, Rev Dick Woodger. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: HC; 10 Euch, O sacrum convivum (Edwards), The Treasurer; 11.30 M. Harris in A Dat, Great Lord (Wood). LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10.30 Ch M. Te Deum in B fail (Simiford). Let all the world in every corner sting (Williams). Canon Alan Green; 12 HC; 4 Ch E. Bairstow in D. Praise to God (Campbell). The Treasurer.

God (Campbell), The Treasurer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S

Euch, Jubilate from the short service
(Weelkes), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), The

Chancellor: 3.30 E, Ireland in F, Expectans

expectav! (Wood), Bishop of Lichileld.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch,

Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina),
The Subdean; 11.15 M, Ireland in F, 12.30

HC; 3.45 E, Brewer in D, O give thanks unto
the Lord (Bliss), Canon Tom Williamson. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; 3 Choral E: 4 HC. Choral E: 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M. 9

Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Great Lord of Lords
(Gibbons), Canon P Denby, 8.30 E. Christ,
under Herr (Bach), Great Lord of Lords
(Gibbons), Canon P Denby.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30, Canon
lan Bennett 6 E.

tan Bennett 6 E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 E. 10.30 M.

Responses (Stewart), Stanford in B flat Rev R

Fenwick. 6.30 S Euch, Lekester Service

(Surnsion), Fantasia & Fugue in G (Party), Rev

R Fenwick. (Surfasion). Fantasia & Fugue in G (Parry), Rev Remwick.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC.; 10.30 S Euch. Messe Solennelle (Langlais). The Archdeacon; 3.30 E. Responses: Ayleward) is aw he Lord (Stainer). Bishop of Lyrn; 6.30 Euch.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M. Stanford in G. 10.30 Euch. Surrasion in A.B.D. The Precention: 3.30 E. Noble in B minor, O Lord, we sing thy praise (Bach).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: B Euch; 9.30 Euch. Ireland in C. Cannon M Glazaville-Smith; 12.30 Euch. S.30 E. Magnifical and Nurc Dingling (Ireland). Rev P Smith.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 M. Roce Responses. Jubilate in F (Ireland): 10.30 S Euch. Schubert in G. Cannon P Longbouron:

Nicholson in D flat.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10

SALISBURY Festival Euch, Christus factus est
(Anerio), The Chancellor: 11.30 M, Te Deum

à Jubilate (Stanford), Jesu, Joy of man's
destring (Bach), The Dean; 3 E. Beatus vir
(Monteverol), The Precentor; 6 Tabe serv. INDUSTRIES IN TREME TO THE SET OF Waimisley in D minor, the Provost, SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M. 8 H.C. 9.30 Parish C. Rev C Turner: 11 S Buch, Excitant just (Visdana), Ave verum corpos (Lassys), Rev M Taylor: 3.15 E. Hymn to the Trinity (Leighton), A. Gioria Deo (Healey Willan), TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 H.C. 9 M.: 10 S Euch, Hymn to the Trinity (Tchafkovsky), The Dean; 6 E. Service for trebles (Weeklies), Haec dies (Byrd), Canon N Pocock.

6 E. Service for freoles (weekles). Haec dies (Byrd), Canon N Pocock:
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Missa Brevis (Eodaly). Hymn 10 the Trinity. Trinalkowsky, The Provost 6:30 E. Responses (Belby), 1 saw the Lord (Stainer), Canon G Nairt-Briggs.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Ireland in C. Here. 0 my Lord (Wintiock), Rev P G Walker; 11:30 M, Te Deum in G Sunrison, Inbilate in C (Britter): 3 E. Sumsion in G. Rev P de Nucas.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Te Deum in G (Williams), Hymn 10 the Cherublin (Rachmaninov), Canon D Gray; 11:15 Euch, Missa trinitails sanctae (Grier), Holy Blessed Trinity (Tchuikowsky), Rev J. Goodali; 3 E. Murrill in E. I saw the Lord (Stainer), Rev Dr K Pecklers; 6:30 ES, Canon D Hutt.

Staineri, Rev Dr R Pecklers; 6.30 ES, Canon D Hun.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7 M; 8 M; 9 M; 10.30 M, Mass in C Schuberd, Tibl laus (Philips); 12 M; 2.45 Organ Recital, Andrew Reid: 3.30 V & 8. Magnificot; quart toni (Bevan), Green is the Lord (Elgar); 5.30 M; 7 M.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. 7 M.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Sef me as a seal (Wallon), Canon P Morgan.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Euch; 11 S Euch, Hertford Mass (Uoyd), Canon D Thomas: 4 E, Responses (Smith), Stanford in A; 5.30 S. Darke in F. Hymn to the Trinity (Tchalkovsky). The Dean.

YORK MINISTER: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Prayer of ST Richard (Sanders), Canon Professor E Norman: 11.30 M. Te Deum in D minor (Statham), Jubilate in F Greiandi; 4 E, Aston in F. Fylitt of the Truth (Moorse), Rev B Williams.

Williams.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Herifordskilm: 8
HC: 9.30 Euch, Hymn to the Trinity
(Tchalkowiky), The Dean: 11 M, Te Deum
(Gibbons), Canon Rison, 12.15 HC: 6.30
Tales Seria.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: HC: 11 Ch.

Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Rev A Mitchell; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Stanford in C, Come down, O love divine (Harris), The Archdeacon; 6 Ch E, Sumsion in G, The Dean.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Sancta Thinks; (Motel, Rev E Davey; 11.30 Ch C, 5.30 Ch E, Responses Rose, I sew the Lord (Stalmer).

ST GHES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC, The Minister; 10 HC, Comm Sev in D (Leighton); 11.30 M S; 6 St. Gibes; 45 Kr Craigowi Consort 8 ES, Rev F Robertset; 17 ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Abgricence; 11 HC, Rev R France: 15 Sev R Thance: 11 HC, Rev R France: 15 Sev R Thance: 15 Sev R Rev D Moguresus.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: Bandon: 8 HG; 88/5

Rev D Mokrataux.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Mandred B HG: 8855
M; II S Euch, Sainburd in CAR, TeDeum in B
fiat (Starford), Rev Bob (Librys J.S Resident),
Service (Howells), I saw the Lord (Stalmen),
Carnon M Servand RUSSIAN ORTHOBOX CATHEDRAL Ennismere Gardens, London, SW2: 10:30 Divine Liungs, Kleven and traditional polyphory, ALL SOUIS. Langham Fisce, Wi:11 Rev R Title: 6:30 Rev R Title:

TICE, 6.30 Rev R TITS.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, Will 11 Missa, Assumpte are Maria (Palestinal, Obone Jest (Dering).

CHELSEA O'LD, CHURCH, SWE. S. HC. 10 Children's Service, 11 M. Rev D'P Rivy. 12.15 HC. 6 Ch. E. Rev D Behn.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, CHIRGH SW. 11 SUNDRY SCHOOL
CROWN COURT CRUBECH OF SCOTEANID.
COVERI Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev J McMcMahon; 6.30 Rev S Hood.
FARM STREET, WI: 8, 930, 12:30, 4.15 A.15 6.30 Rev S Hood:

FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15
LM: 11 HM.

THE ORATORY, Brampton Road, SWI: 7 M;
8 M; 9 M; 10 M; 11 M, Missa Anchors Sum
(victoria), The lears (Phillips, 12.30 M; 7.30 V
8 B. Duo Semphim (victoria), 4.30 M; 7 M,

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Weens
Gdus, WE: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y
Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CRAPEL City Road, ECZ: 9.45 HC: 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffids. HC: 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL
(Methodist), SWI-11 MW, Rev Dr P GERES,
6.39 HC. Rev E PISCHET.
ST ANNE AND ST. AGNES: Busingrami,
Gresham St. SGZ 11 Ch. Both, Rev 17 Britch:
7 less Vespers, Rev 13 Bellevinson.
ST BARTHOLOMORY THE GREAT, Somminded, SGL: 9 HC. 11 Ch. Band, Missa O rec
giorise (Lobo), The Rescont 6.30 E. Ghorcestar
Rection, Howellis, Salve regina (Victoria), The
Rection, Howellis, Salve regina (Victoria), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M &
Euch, Te Doum in F fireband, Misse Street.
(Presund, Cannon Bill Christianson: 6.30 Ch
E Responset (Rose), Dyson in F (Diminis).
Chann Bill Certistianson:
ST CLEMENT DAMES: 11 Ch Euch, Misse
Brevis in: C (Mozani, Dim seraphim
(Monteword) Rev I Coyfie.
ST COLUMBAS. CHURCH OF SCUTLAND,

ST. DERYS, Stration E15: 11 S. St Affre Supple (Birth) Rev D Richards 6.30 HC, Rev W. Dichello SEPARATION OF M. S.W.: 8 HC 10.30 HC.
By CHICAGO TO THE THIRD OF THE T ST MARKS, Regents Park Rd. NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 C 11.5 Euch, Missa brevis in R flat, Ave verum (Moner), Rev D Beam.

ST MARGARETS, Wesminster, SW: 11 S Buth, Missa brevis in C (Moner), Rev D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-STRIDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Each, Rev Clare Herber; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Giben Lee 5 Choral Evensorg: 6.30 ES.

ST MARTI ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Ebith, Rev F Gelli, 11.15 Ch M, Vicar: 6.30 E. Rev Michael Fuller.

ST MARTY, Bourne Street, SWI: 9 LM: 10 LM: 11 HM, Missa In hydrorem Sancissimme Tribinsis [Motary, Canon Land Pilkington; 6 E, 7 LM. E 7 IM.

87 MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC10.30 Euch, Missa l'hora passa (Viadana),
ker Sally Resister; 6 IR.

87 MARY-LEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8
HC, 11 Ch Euch, Missa Cornella (Leighton),
Conte, my Way, my Truth, my Life (Williams),
The Recorn. ST MECHARLS. Comphel. EC3: Ch Each. Schubert in G. I heard a voice (Weetkes), Ven O Reid.

ST PAILS: Wilton Place, SWI: 8 HC; 9 HC; 11 Such. Missa paper marchill (Paiestinal, Rev N Dawton).

ST PETERS, Enson Square, SWI: 8 15 HC; 10 Euch: 11 S. Euch. Missa vinum honum (Lastus), Kyrie (Basch, Fr D & Hillyer, ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St. SWI: 8 HC; 11 M. Festival Te Deuin (Vaughan Williams); SJS Organ recital, Richard Mayor 630 E. Peto M Mignor 10 Euch. Sirusion in F. Ven E.J. G. Ward. (Ends Ven Royal). Surger, Williams (Ends Ven Royal). It is Such. Rev S Hoods. Queens Chaptel. Of the Savoy. WC2: 11 M. Te Denm in E. minor (Cole). Hymn to the Thinty (Tchailtowsky). IL30 Mc. The Creed (Merchaelt, They haster. Guarden in G. The Creed (Merchaelt, They haster.). Williams Chaptel. Wellington Barracks. SWI: 11 M. A Hymn in the Trinity (Tchailtowsky). Intolism in C (Britten), Rev P E. Reindorp. 12 HC. ST MICHAELS, Comhei, EC3: Ch Euch, Schubert in G. I heard a voice (Weelkes), Ven

PERSONAL COLUMN

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For the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind; and by it we are disciplined to LEWIS - On May 21st 1997, to Micola (née May) and Harry, a son, George Peter Gethin, a brother for Heary.

MINUTED - On May 6th at The Fortland Hospital to Alexandra (née Hahm) and james, a son, James, a brother for Isabel.

BIRTHS

ARRITER - On May 20th at The Portland Hospital at Sarah and Mutray, a ton, Maxwell Harvey, a haby brother to Isobel Louiso. isobei Louiso.

BAKER - On 19th May, at
American Hospital, Faris, to
Maris (née Choustova) and
John, a son, Alexander
Travioz. icebus Emmannel.

RIDPATH - On 19th May, to
Barbara (née Numemaket)
and Michael, a son, Nicholas
Andrew Carson, a brother for
julis and Leura.

SZAPARY - Count and
Countess Suspary at the
Hospital of 5t John and
Elisabeth on May 18th to
Sylvis (née Van Ricef) and
Peter, a heautiful baby
daughter Antonia.

WALLACE - On May 20th, to
Emma (née Freedard) and
David, a son (Lawrence
Theodore), a brother for
Missodia.

WILMOTT - On May 22nd at BURNICZ - On 15th May 1997 at PAH, Harlow, to Sandra at PAH, Harlow, to Sandra (née Simpson) and John, a very special daughter, isabella Olivia Florence.

CUMPALE - George Joseph Stephen, a wonderful son for Kevin and Diane. Born 18th BOODSODY - On 20th May, to John and Clarista (1866 Farr), a lovely son, Adam John Remand, brother for Isobal WELMOTT - On May 22nd at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, to Lee and Emma, a son, Auron Steven John. HARVEY - On May 15th at The Portland Hospital To Paul and College, a daughter,

SERRY - On May 15th 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, ro juliet (née Walte) and Julian, a son, George Stanley Errett. HOFMANN - On 22nd May, 1997, in Langenad. Germany, to Helen (née NOLDSWORTH - On May 21st at the Portland Hospital to Rebecca (nee Hodge) and Simon, a son, Oscar Alexander Hector, a brother for Holly, Mar and Otiver

HOPEWELL - On 18th May to Sella and Richard, a son.

Thomas Henry Prince ONES - On May 22nd to Helen (née French) and Mark, a daughter, Carys Mylanwy.

DEATHS

_-·

ALEXAMDER - Peacefully on May 19th after a long lilness. Naci Gower of Tyrwana Tsrajyfera. Husband of Violes, father of Flona and Morag. Was laid to rest at Allt-y-Grag Cametery on Thursday May 22nd.

SEMENT: On May 23nd 1997, after a long filners, bravely borns, Roger Wilson, aged 31 years of Brockham. Mach loved husband of Etripe, father, grandfather and geax grandfather. Faneral at Surrey & Sustex Grematorium, Friday, May 30th at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations for Parkinson's Disease Society Co J. Stoneman & Sons, Doran Court, Rochill, RH1 6AZ.

OPLATA - On May 9th at The Portland Hospital to Deborah and George, 2 son, Joshua Emmanuel

DEATHS BOWHARN - Hugh on May 20th 1997 in Melbourne, Australia, bushand of the his Sally Estharine, beloved father of Eate. Colin, Jane and Sheum and Gamps of Jordana and Casey. BROAD - Leanurd Frederick, Of Eithum and Freeman of the City of Loudon, Pencefully on May 23rd at the Manor House, East Bridgford, Matthewalthumble

House. East Bridgford.
Nottinghamphire after an
iliness boxes with courses.
Busband of Celle, much
loved father of Frank and
grandfather of Rebecca.
Fungal Service at Grantham
Crematorium at 20m on
Thursday 27th May, Flowers
or danations in lies for
RNLI maybe went clo AW. I
Lymn 17 Long Acre.
Bingham, Notta, NGI3 2AF.
01949 837211.

CALTHORPS - Lord Peter CALTHORPE - Lord Peter W.S.G. at Mount Alvernia Hospital. Mach loved husband of Elizabeth. Service at Gaildford Crematorium on Thursday 79th May at 3.30pm. No flowers please, any donations to Macmillan Nurses, clo Pimms Fuperal Services, Mary Boad, Gaildford GUI 401. Tel: 01483 567394.

COLLEGO: Jeanle, on 22nd May, at home, after an illness bravely endured, very desait loved wife of Richard Collison, loving mether of Diane, Philip and Resmannd and grandbother of Cornelia, Edward, Caspar, Anna and Ollvia, Funeral Service at Bishopstone Padab Church at 3 o'clock on Friday 30th May, Any enquiries to Stephen Bockwith (01725) 552309

MARTFORD - Hermione aged 87 in Treliske Hospital on May 16th. Funeral at St Gerrans Church on May 30th Enquiries (0171) 228-7777.

Gübert Ecad, Cambridge.
Loving mother of Anthony.
Loving mother of Anthony.
Dilys and Dimah and sunch loved gandmother of Covn.
Hugh. Roman and Clare.
Presed away peacefully at home and Thomasy 22nd May at the Phyllis Tackwell Houghes. Bearing loved by Inmity, goddhidren and many friends. "I will lift the home and Thomasy 22nd May 1097 aged 91 year. Trickes campaigner in numerous campaigner in numerous local and antional associations. Funeral Service at the Unitarian Church, Elemanuel Ecad, associations. Funeral Service at the Unitarian Church, Emmanuel Road, Cambridge on Thorsday 29th May at 12.30pm. Flowers to Harry Williams Funeral Discretors. 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge, Donations to Sawe the Children Fund.

LEWIS - Theodore William on 19th May 1997 aged 84. Widower of Darhne Lewis and dearly loved father of Caroline Funeral service on Satteriny 31st May 1997 at 11.30m at 5: Edmand's Church, Shipston-on-Stour. Enquiries to E. Locke & Son., Funeral Directors 01608 685274.

LLOVID - David A Lloyd Passed away peacefully on Wednesday 21st May. His wife Jain, son Michael and daughters Diana and Lynn, and all his family griswe for him, The funeral will be on Treathy 27th May at Awson Gifford Church at 2.30.

id LOZYNSKO - Major Feter M. of Lozynski A.L.C. died Lozynski A.L.C. died Lozeniy 20th May 1997. Aged 43 years. R.L.P. is Engoides Earl of Physical Co. 1752 605550. NEWTON - Robert (Bob) ayed 62 years in hospital after a short (Entes on 20th May 1997. Deaty leved by wife Margaret of Sale, Cheshire, six children and six grandchildren. Retired Eardster at Law.

PRIOR - On May 21st at home, Counte aged 87. Widow of Sam and foring mother of Pamela, Jean, Patrick and Richard, also much loved grandmother, Faneral Service at Sallabary Crematorium on Thuesday 29th May at 11.40ms. Pamily flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campeign, 123 Castle Rend, Sallabary SF1 3EF.

TEPPENG - Samuel Percy Owen Dunber, formetrly of Church Farm, Cransford, Suffolk, peacefully in hospital in Western Australia on 20th May, Much loved father and

WALTERS - On May 21st 1997
bescafully at home after a
long illoams havely burns,
Risgh Walters F.D.S. R.C.S.
aged 57 years, beloved
bushmed of Rosemary, dear
father of Marianne and
David, lowing grandfather to
Christopher and Chuisey,
som of Doré and the late
Harry and brother of Lyzz.
Service of Celebration for
his life will be held at St
Marychynth Parish Church
on Saturday May 31st at
35m. No Lowers by request.
Donations if desired for
M.E. Scanner may be sunt to
Torbey & District Femeral MRI Scanner may be sent to Torbor District Februari Service, Il Babbacombe Load, Torona

WALTON Margaret
pencefully on May 19th in
the dedicated care of St
George's Retrest. Burgers
Hill, the beloved wife of
Richard and the mother of
Gebriel, Sarah and John.
Service at Alciston Church,
Sumez, at 145 pm on Friday
May 30th followed by
private cremation, Flowers
or departions if desired to the
Alchemor's Disease Society or The Royal Society

Municiana.

WARIMETERM - Rame (Lon) on Thursday May 22nd at home.

Wonderful wife to Checke, mother of Januirer and mother-in-law to Jasper.

Funezal at the Church of St. Paul, Restington, on Friday May 30th at 7.00 pm. Family flowers only please.

Donardons if desired to St. Branches House Morthbo. Barnabus Hospics, Worthing, C/O H.D. Telbe Ltd. 67 Sex Lene, Rustington, West Summa BN16 280. MEMORIAL SERVICES

SciOcal Signifi - A Memorial Service for Miranda who died on 27th April 1997 will be held at St. Botolyh without Bishopsgate, Louinn FC2 on Saturday 7th June at Jun. No flowers, Tuber and buser to Liver pool St. Sto. 0171 565 3388 VON MIRCHRING - Miranda -see Bickford Smith. IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

MAGINTYRE - Eric, killed in a rouse motor car 18th May 1967. LBO, keving you was easy, Missing you 40 years Hard Time. The remembrance of your Love, your gift of Life and your infinite capacity for gentle Fun is always with us. Scine facins. Alsetair and the family.

PRIVATE WOLFEOR - Lady Edith Wolfson (1907-1981). On her birthday, renembered with love by all her family and friends. BIRTHDAYS

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VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ALASTAIR EWING

Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing, KBE, CB, DSC. wartime destroyer captain and Admiral Commanding Reserves, 1960-62, died on May 19 aged 88. He was born on April 10, 1909.

eeing much active service in destroyers throughout the Second World War, Alastair Ewing earned the DSC for his participation in no fewer than six Arctic convoys while captain of the Offa. Despite the many losses and the fearful hardship, the Arctic in 1941-42 was the dominant route for Allied supplies to a hardpressed Soviet Union, an expression of commitment at a time when few Anglo-American soldiers were yet in action and the Red Army was bearing the brunt of the war.

In July 1942 Offa was one of the group led by Commander . Jackie Broome that was escorting the notorious convoy PQ17 when, north of Bear Island, it was ordered to scatter by Admiral Dudley Pound, the First Sea Lord, in the mistaken belief that major German warships were at sea. This was against the best intelligence advice and the incident, which cost 22 out of 35 merchant ships, 430 tanks, 210 aircraft and 100,000 tonnes of cargo, has been seen by posterity as one of the worst professional errors of the war - and a classic case of "backseat driv-

ing" leading to a disaster. Ewing recalled an enormous reluctance to obey the order to leave the convoy and to rendezvous with the British covering force of cruisers to the West. PQ17 was in good heart; air and submarine attacks had been beaten off, a number of aircraft had been shot down and good progress was being made towards Russia. Ewing even wondered if he could fake a breakdown and stay with the destroyer

Fury, who also seemed to be -like-minded. But the order to scatter was quite specific. Broome's official report of

the operation, which was written on July 8, only four days after the "scatter" order, describes the disquiet he also felt when the threat from German warships did not immediately materialise and mentions the texts of his signals volunteering to rejoin and re-form. (Later, in 1971, Broome was awarded £40,000 in a libel case against the author and publisher of a book that imputed to him "downright disobedience," and "cowardly conduct".)

The scion of a distinguished Scottish Border family of soldiers, sailors and landowners, Robert Alastair Ewing graduated from Dartmouth in 1926 and served in the famous but ill-fated battlecruiser Hood on the home station before being sent out to the Far East in the new cruiser Suffolk, one of the several stately, three-funnelled "county" class that held up the evening of Empire on the China Station.

His career in destroyers started in the Mediterranean in 1930 with commissions in Vanquisher, Valorous and, during the arduous operations in support of British interests during the Spanish Civil War. in HMS Shamrock. Early noted for his leadership qualities, he spent two years training new entry seamen boys at HMS Ganges near Ipswich, playing hockey in a Ganges team that beat the Suffolk county XI.

Appointed second-in-command of the destroyer Imogen in late 1936, Ewing was mentioned in dispatches for his conduct during the opening campaigns of the war. Keeping what was then an illegal but is today an historically important diary, Ewing recounts, with humanity and wit, how the Royal Navy adjusted to war, absorbing



large numbers of "hostilities only" personnel and learning from sometimes disastrous mistakes. In October 1939 Imogen shared in one of the first sinkings of a U-boat, U42 and a second, U63, in February 1940. She also took part in many convoy escort operations as well as the

invasion and the retreat from Norway.

Ewing was again mentioned in dispatches while in command of the Hunt class destroyer Cattistock. He also commanded the light cruiser Diomede and ended the war in command of the new de-

Promoted captain in 1947. Ewing was posted to Washington for the Nato International Planning Group where, under such as Lord Tedder and General Omar Bradley, he assisted in the construction of the Nato Alliance, at that time comprising only ten countries. After a year as a student at

the Imperial Defence College in London, he was appointed at short notice to command Britain's last battleship, the Vanguard, handling this great ship on her last operational commission with skill and confidence through a number of exercises and events, including holding the lead position in the Spithead Coronation Review of 1953.

As Director of the RN Staff College, he was noted for his manners and intelligence. Promoted rear-admiral in 1956 he. as Naval Secretary, looked after officers' careers as well as implementing the introduc-tion of the "General List", a far-reaching structural reform inspired by Earl Mountbatten.

His final sea appointment. 1958-60, was as Flag Officer Flotillas, based on Malta. where his style of leadership was much appreciated. The major issue facing the smaller ships of the fleet in this period was the "Enosis" crisis in Cyprus and consequent antiarms-smuggling patrols.
Although widely expected to

go higher. Ewing retired in 1962 as a vice-admiral after two years as Admiral Commanding Reserves and Inspector of Naval Recruiting. sponsoring measures which produced a welcome increase in numbers for the Navy. He was appointed CB in 1959 and KBE in 1962.

Moving to the United States with his wife Diana, whom he had married in 1940, Ewing dealt in real estate and became a yacht broker. He was also Dean of Boys at the Graham-Eckes School, Palm Beach, and an officer of the local English Speaking Union.

Widowed in 1980, Ewing returned to England and in 1984 married Anne Wilkins, nee Chichester, whom he had first met at a graduation ball at Dartmouth in 1926. She survives him, with his son and the stepchildren of the second marriage.

DULCE MARIA LOYNAZ

Dulce María Loynaz, Cuban poet died in Havana on April 27 aged 04. She was born there on December 10, 1902.

AN INTIMATE lyrical poet, Dulce Maria Loynaz described politics as "the enemy of poetry". Perhaps this was why, for an author who matured against the back-ground of Fidel Castro's Cuba, it took so long for her to attain international recognition. Although she had been writing from childhood and was first published at the age of 17, she only achieved renown in old when she was awarded the 1987 Cuban National Prize for Literature and then, at the age of 90, received the Cervantes Prize - Spain's highest literary award.

Fellow Cuban writers, however, had always recognised the calibre of her work. She was a lifelong friend of such authors as Alejo Carpentier. Eugenio Florit and Emilio Ballagas (though Federico Garcia Lorca, who had stayed with her family in the 1930s, had not, she confessed, liked her poetry, nor she his).

In recent years her work has been published in America and Europe — though not yet in Britain — including such volumes of poetry as Poesias Escogidas (Selected Poems. 1984). Bestiarium (The Bestiary, 1985) and Poemas Naufragos (Shipwrecked Poems, 1993). In her own country, young Cubans brought up under Fidel Castro to believe that everything of national value began in 1959 were awestruck when Lovnaz made an appearance on television in 1993 — a frail, bespectacled. half-blind nonagenarian who had written poetry which touched with a passionate lyricism on themes such as

By this time, however, Loynaz saw herself merely as survivor of a past generation of poets. I even outlived myself, which is the worst thing that can happen to one," she said.

freedom.

Dulce Maria Loynaz was born into a patrician Cuban family in the same year that her country became a nation state. Her father was an army general - a mambi or Cuban who had fought for indepenence from the Spanish in the 19th century. She was later to edit and publish his memoirs.

The eldest of four children. she was brought up in a colonial mansion surrounded by lush tropical gardens and overlooking the sea. It was a

who was also to become a poet, lost his reason and ended his years in isolation in his childhood home, while her sister Flor, having taken part in the 1933 student rebellion against the dictator Gerardo Machado, also lived alone except for her numerous dogs

 in later years. Educated at home in a literary and artistic atmo-sphere, Dulce Maria had her first poems published in the Havana newspaper La Nacion when she was 17. She read law at Havana University, graduating in 1927. But at the same time she continued writing poetry and a collection, Versos, was published in 1938. Limpidly lyrical, these poems reflect the feelings of love and loneliness of a young woman as well as the natural beauty of her native Cuba.

Loynaz travelled widely throughout the Americas as well as to Europe and the Middle East — and it was these journeys which were to influence several of her later books, including Juegos de agua (Fountains, 1940). Poemas sin nombre (Poems Without a Name, 1953), Obralyrica (Lyrical Works, 1955) and the travel book Un Verano en Tenerife (A Sum-

mer in Tenerife, 1958). During the 1950s Loynaz published a delicate avantgarde novel Jardin - a precursor to magical realism and several essays. But with the 1959 Cuhan revolution and the rise of Fidel Castro she fell silent, going into "interior exile". Unlike her sister Flor, however, she was totally apolitical. But if she did not publish her own poetry she continued to write essays and to work on the translation of one of her favourite poets, Walt Whitman.

She was elected president of the Academica Cubana de la Lengua, which held its meetings in her home.

When she was a young woman, Loynaz met and wished to marry Pablo Alvarez de Canas, a Canary Islander whose family had come to Cuba in search of a better life. Her own family would not countenance the union and so. in 1937, she married her first cousin instead. When this childless marriage was dissolved she returned to her first love and this time - despite the raised eyebrows of Cuban society - married him. It was rumoured, however, that he was homosexual and he left Cuba when Castro came to power. He returned only when he was terminally ill and he died in 1974. There were no children.

ilue of affect rsonal

CHARLES CRACKNELL



Charles Cracknell, MBE, bassoonist, died on May l aged 81. He was born on September 13, 1915.

CHARLES CRACKNELL was Principal Bassoon of the Hallé for 31 years, during which under John (later Sir John) Barbirolli became one of Britain's best. He was also an active and distinguished teacher of his instrument, who influenced generations of pupils and may be said to have created his own individual school of bassoon playing.

The second son of a Hastings clockmaker, Charles William Penton Cracknell was expected to follow his elder brother into the family business. However, visits to the Hastings Municipal Orchestra had kindled in him an interest in music in general and the bassoon in particular. Once bitten by the bassoon bug, there is no known antidote," he said.

A local piano-tuner and bassoonist started him off on a French-system instrument. and his studies continued with Frank Rendall. After switching to an Adler bassoon, using the more manageable and

now much more widespread German system, Cracknell began to deputise at weekends in the Eastbourne Municipal Orchestra. After the Second World

War, spent in the Royal Corps of Signals at York and then in ria Cracknell enrolled part-time at the Royal Academy of Music. He studied with Richard Newton, Principal Bassoon of the BBC Symphony, and freelanced alongside players such as Archie Čamden, Paul Draper and Eddie When Barbirolli came to

conduct a performance of the Verdi Requiem at the BBC towards the end of 1945, he asked Newton if he had any promising pupils for the recently re-formed Hallé Orchestra: Cracknell went to play for him, and by August was in the seat he was to make his own over the next 30 years. The Hallé, founded in 1857,

had been going through a difficult period. Players were shared with the local BBC Orchestra and the Liverpool Philharmonic Society. But Liverpool formed an independent orchestra in 1942, and, with BBC commitments preventing the Hallé from functioning properly, the decision was taken to go it alone.

A separate full-time orchestra was formed in 1943 and Barbirolli was engaged as its conductor. He had to contend not only with the difficulties of recruiting musicians in wartime, but with the fact that most local players opted for the greater security of the BBC. Nevertheless, he succeeded in turning the Halle into one of the country's finest orchestras in the postwar years.

Cracknell was highly regarded by his colleagues in the orchestra, who appreciated his beautiful sound, his natural musicianship and his support and encouragement of his fellow players. He gave a number of historic performances, among them the British premiere in 1949 of Richard Strauss's Duet-Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon (with Pat Ryan).

Despite his heavy workload th the orchestra, with more than two hundred concerts a year, Cracknell found time to teach at the Northern School of Music (later to be the Royal Northern College) and Chetham's School, as well as taking a number of private

He was an inspirational teacher, but exacting and methodical. He demanded high standards of accuracy and technique, though always at the service of musical expression. Many of his former pupils have gone on to become professional players and teachers, often returning to him throughout their careers for coaching and advice; the distinctive school of playing they represent is his lasting

musical legacy.
Cracknell was made an
Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 1972, and retired from the Halle in 1977. His imposing 6ft 5in presence was much missed by colleagues and concert audiences alike. The former still recall his wry sense of humour and predilection for complex spoonerisms. Despite heavy professional commitments, he took great delight in trying to grow dahlias almost as tall as he was in his Didsbury

Retiring to Kent, Cracknell continued to teach at King's School Canterbury, and in 1980 his work as a teacher was recognised when he was appointed MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

In 1941 he married Patricia Mary Murphy. She survives him with their three daughters, two of whom are also musicians and teachers.

privileged, if eccentric, childhood. Her brother, Carlos,

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LYRIC THEATRE "THE WINSLOW BOY" By Terence Rattigan

It is not often that a play professing to treat a cause célébre succeeds in suggesting that the material which we are privileged to inspect at close quarters is stuff likely to excite a vast public interest. The case of the Winslow Boy has this special momentousness, a quality it owes not to its likeness in outline to the Archer-Shee case of 1908, but to the adroitness with which Mr. Rattigan has in a brilliant first act arranged the incidents, established the suitability of the characters to his purpose. and pointed the issues.

It is the case of a naval cadet dismissed from Osborne on flimsy evidence of having stolen and forged a five-shilling postal order. There is a protracted struggle to vindicate the youngster's reputation. On one side is his outraged father and staunch Suffragist sister representing private rights, persistently seek-ing fair trial: on the other the Admiralty. entrenched behind the tradition that the Navy must be the sole judge of material suitable for the making of a British officer and appearing under pressure more and more a massively obstructive and complacent bureaucracy. To the authorities the boy's dismissal may be a

ON THIS DAY

May 24, 1946 **学型等**

One of Sir Terence Rattigan's early plays. The Winslow Boy, had a strong cash including Emlyn Williams. Angela Baddeley, Clive Morton and Frank Cellier and ran for more than 470 performances.

trifle; to his father, a Kensington Hampden, to a great lawyer, ultimately to the public at large it is one of thuse tremendous trifles involving the principle of individual liberty. It is the drama of this struggle and the largeness of the issue that Mr. Rattigan brings to the stage in that moving first act which sees the cadet first satisfy his father of his innocence and then under savage private cross-examination the eminent counsel who is to win him public acquittal. The act ends memorably with Sir Robert rising, after having reduce the cadet to tears with the words, "The boy did not steal the postal order. I will accept the

In the second half of the play. Mr. Rattigan, leaving the law suit too far in the background. turns to the presumably necessary love interest and the temperature falls. Miss Angela Baddeley makes good conventional capital out of her lover's faint-hearted defection: Mr. Clive Morton and Mr. Alastair Bannerman go neatly through their romantic hoops; but Mr. Frank Cellier's firm study of a just man contending for justice tends to fade into the background as love affairs obscure the issue. Mr. Emlyn Williams, magnifi-cently as he cross-examines the cadet, is not a sufficiently formidable figure to carry off the final curtain, and after Miss Kathleen Harrison's exquisitely delirious announce ment of the verdict the play flickers un-certainly to its end. But with what compelling certainty it has begun!

SELECTED STREETS AS PLAYGROUNDS A suggestion that more selected streets in densely populated areas should be closed to traffic and used as playgrounds for young children was made yesterday by Mr. D. R. Hardman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, at a meeting of the National Safety Congress in London, Mr. Hardman said that if things were not improved another 3,300 children would be killed on the roads by January 1, 1950.

NEWS

Blair wants to forge Europe

Tony Blair strode confidently on to the European stage and promised to use his landslide election victory to help the construction of a new Europe that would become popular with a doubting public. The Prime Minister placed jobs at the top of the European Union agenda as he called for a "radical shift in Europe's horizons"...

Mobile phone driver is jailed

A driver who caused the death of another motorist in a crash seconds after he made a call on his mobile telephone was jailed for six months. Peter Mill. 34, a marketing manager, had been listening to his message service shortly before his vehicle crossed the road and collided head-on with a van.....

Killer at large

The killer of Katerina Koneva was still at large last night as a school mourned the loss of one of its most ...Pages 1, 3 gifted pupils

Sinn Fein victory Sinn Fein secured a massive vote

in this week's local elections in Northern Ireland, ending more than a century of Unionist rule in .. Page 2

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The last big manufacturer of quality felt hats bowed to the dictates of fashion and closed Page 5

Aids woman accused A woman who claims she was infected with HIV by a fisherman

was accused that she had moved to Cyprus for sex Wilde sayings

Early witticisms from Oscar Wilde have emerged on a previously-unknown questionnaire which he filled out for a lark as an

Foster care row

The Government has promised to close a legal loophole that allowed local authorities to send boys to a foster carer despite knowing he had a conviction for indecent ...Page ii

Holiday pirates Tour operators are cancelling sail-

ing holidays off Corfu because of Albanian pirates.....

Church MP wanted

Tony Blair has been rebuffed in his efforts to appoint an MP to represent the interests of the Church of England Page 14 European rite

European leaders performed a rite of exceeding rarity: they gave a

hero's welcome to a British Prime Minister and listened when hePage 16 lectured them Election bore

In France the finale of a lacklustre

electoral campaign failed to deliv-Oxford undergraduate Page 9 er much-needed fizz Page 18

Holiday to be sneezed at

■ Nine million British hayfever sufferers face a sniffing, eyestreaming Bank Holiday weekend as hot weather brings the first pollen alert of the season. Last night weathermen were predicting that the whole country would enjoy a sunny break, although the nights may be cold and even frostyPage 1



Kirsty Young. Toni Nunn and Bryan Kesselman preparing yesterday for the Hatstand Opera's celebration of the paintings at the Courtauld Gallery. The Opera Grand Tour is part of the BOC Covent Garden Festival which opens on Monday

OPINION

In Trinity: Tomorrow, Trinity Sunday, is unique among Christian festivals in that it celebrates neither a person nor an event, but the mystery of God...Page 23

Crawling off the canvass: Conservatives must acknowledge that policy and leadership have been the source of their misfortune and are the means of revival Page 23

LETTERS

Windfall tax; Bacon painting; hunting: clerical dress; the Proms: Russia and Nato; minimum wage Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Westminster City Council may have some of London's most lurid malls of depravity. But a film entirely dedicated to the eroticism of car crashes was too much for the most case-hardened councillor Page 22 Simon Barnes: Football heroes have scored more goals for European harmony than

OBITUARIES

politicians....

Sir Alastair Ewing, destroyer captain; Dulce Maria Loynaz, poet; Charles Cracknell bassoonist...... Page 25

BUSINESS Football: Phil Neville will

Windfall tax: Privatised utility companies will report soaring profits which will be seized on by the Government as justification for the windfall tax.... Page 27 Laura Ashley: Shares fell to

their lowest since July 1995 after two senior management departures...Page 27 Hallfac Members of the former building society can look

forward to a bumper windfall Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 10 to 4661.S. Sterling fell to 98.1 after fails to \$1.6300 and

DM2.7557_

make his first appearance for

England on home soil in the match against South Africa at Old Trafford Page 52 Cricket Followers of England will have a spring in their steps on the way to the Oval for the second one-day international ____Page 52

Golf: Eamonn Darcy and Darren Clarke shared the lead in the first round of the Volvo PGA championship at ...Page 48

Motor racing: Jean Alesi was fastest in practice for the Page 30 | Spanish Grand Prix Page 49 |

Richard Morrison: Opera and ballet are noble arts.

The Covent Garden management has turned them into bywords for irrelevance, waste and incom-__ Page 21 Peace protest: Britten's

Owen Wingrave is a tough nut, so all credit to Glyndebourne for bringing their touring production into the festival Page 21

Star turn: Belting out the old numbers. Ruthie Henshall unwisely invited comparisons with Ethel Merman ____ Page 21

Sculptor's image: Maggi Hambling's OscarPage 10 Proms offer..... Page 22 Hubble: The fundamental

Weekend

secrets of lifePage 30

Lidos: Why are we closing



Fashion: The Seventies come of age Page 3 Homelife: What to tell adopted children Page 15

Hanson: A superstar for the millennium Page 6 Savings gulde: Page 8

Recommends: Page II





ing the Brits Pages 9-14 What's on: ___ Pages 15-19 TV Guide: Pages 23-51

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,488

A £20 book taken will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition. PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

ACROSS

- I How top golfer can play without practising? (4.7).
- 7 Execution for conspiracy is one's 9 It was wrong to cover inside
- 10 1've got it! It's a boy (5). Il Painter secured by boat that
- hlocks river (7). 12 Second piece of lemon put into miserable port (7).
- 13 Baffled being pointedly held up
- 15 Star name booked [9]. 17 No repeats broadcast? Nobody
- understands it. naturally (4). 19 Cheshire town where people have made a lot of changes (5).
- 20 Queen welcomed by museum
- 22 Trials using old weight and measures 17). 24 Permission for elder, say, to
- respond to promptings of spring
- 25 Like some novels from author? Well, I analysed some (9).
- 27 She makes time before 4 that she did! (3). 28 Less perfect, erring in pride (4-7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.482

- I Audible sign of relief it's not a 7ac (3).
- Basket-maker more comfortable when head cold is gone (5).
- 3 Check what one losing in court wants? (7).
- 4 Cause riot, having set up one to co into prison (5.4).
- 5 Doctor's entertainment (3). 6 Throwing the game (7). 7 To function as parliament, stage one is to get some candidate (9).
- Enthusiastic expression, follow-ing inviting pairs of hips (5.6).
- Type who was dogged by rais-fortune? [11].

 If in revolt, children asked originally to wear school caps (5.4). 16 International contest finally won by gifted horse (6.3).
- 18 Football team's fury, having ex-tremely ridiculous clothing (7). 19 Makes a move in game that's nilnil. it appears (7).
- 21 Bikini, perhaps, about to show everything (5). 23 Unknown river in African cour-
- 26 Raise money that might make you an eighead, so to speak? (3). Solution to Puzzle No 20.487



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new and used car reports from the AA menu of 175 can 0336 416 399 אסיי ענים אסיב אסיב לציין לציין לאיני אסיב אסיב לאיני אינים אסיב אסיב אסיב איני היים אינים אינים אינים אינים א AA Developments Ltd. Northic Press Press Red Spongrade 1524 987 Cash are charged at 45p per market charp rate.
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

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HIGH TIDES ASSOCIATION SELECTION CONTRACTOR SELECTION CONTRACT

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41 2% of the raw material for the manuscripts in the first

HIGHEST & LOWEST

General: southern counties may be cloudy at first with a stiff easterly breeze on some Channel coasts. in the east, too, there may be a cool breeze off the sea. In general, however, England and Wales should

be bright and dry with surmy periods after a chilly or frosty start.

A chilty start is likely in Scotland and Northern Ireland, perhaps with a sharp trost in some shellered glens. sunny periods. London, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England: chilly start. Bright, sunny periods. Winds light, easterly. Max 15C (59F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scot-land, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orloney, Shetland, N Ireland: Irosty start.

FORECAST Bright or sunny periods. Winds light, mainly easterly. Max 14C (57F).

SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy at first then bright with sunny intervals. Winds fresh or strong, easterly, cooker. Man 160 (stD) easing. Max 16C (61F).

☐ E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: bright with erate, easterly. Max 14C (57F).

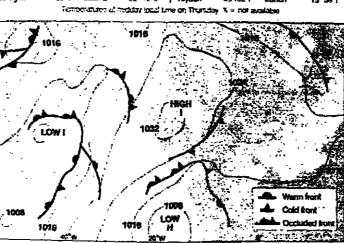
Outlook for Sunday and Mon-day: staying settled and dry. On Monday, outbreaks of rain are likely over northern Britain.

☐ Pollen: low in N Scotland, S Scotland, N Ireland, NW England, NE England, N Wales, E Anglia, SW England, London; low to moderate in S Wales; moderate in Midlands, SE Scotland, Control S England England, Central S England.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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Changes to chart above from noon, high 1 will move south and build; low H will fill as it slowly drifts west; low I will steadily move east.

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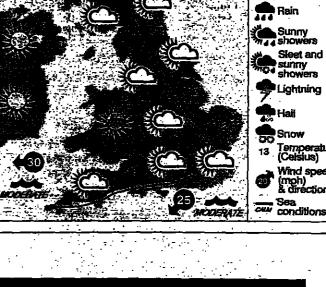
🏋 Sunny

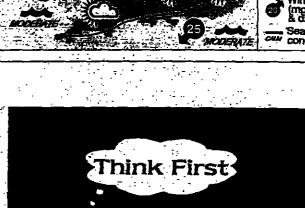
🙅 Lightning

Temperati (Celsius)

Wind speed (mph) & direction Sea. Conditions

113





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REDIA	7 1.	25.39	35%
SOUTH APRICA	1.000	£4.57	38%
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INSIDE SECTION



WORKING WEEK

Goal in sight for cautious revolutionary PAGE 29



on their words and your bonds PAGE 31



700p

it makes its stock market

debut on June 2. Nearly eight

million Halifax customers will

benefit from the free shares. An estimated two thirds of

them will get the basic 200

shares, while the rest will get

amount they have saved. Shares in Alliance &

Leicester, the former building

society, which floated last

month, yesterday rose 39p to

638p. These shares have now risen more than 100p since

About 27 per cent of Alliance

& Leicester's shareholders

sold their shares on the first day via the dealing service

offered by A&L. Despite the

fact that dealing was free.

these shareholders received

who sold on the open market

immediately. Some of the ini-

tial buoyancy in the Alliance

share price was attributed to

bid speculation. The size of the

Halifax makes it an unlikely

The experience of A&L share-

holders means it is unlikely

that as many Halifax share-

holders will sell their shares

immediately. A scarcity of

shares will push up the Halifax

share price even further.

bid target.

flotation on April 21.

more depending on

SPORT

Lions get down to business in South Africa **PAGES 45-52**

THE TIMES CITY DIARY **PAGE**

WEEKEND

Anne Ashworth

on the duties of

Norwich Union

shares. A good

PENSIONS

A SOUTH SAVINGS

insurance policy?

of delay

Ernie celebrates

with better odds

his birthday

a watchdog

Someone to

watch over you.

The new regulator

risks and rewards

29

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

Ministers press for higher

windfall tax target

Soaring utility profits to hit £10bn

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

dividends that grow at a rate far in excess of the market

average. Analysts do not ex-pect them to moderate this to

pacify the Treasury, which is now hearing submissions from companies arguing for

Electricity company inves-tors are likely to receive £1.3

billion in dividends this year

while water companies will

pay about £760 million. This

comes on top of a massive

programme of share buy

backs and special dividends

that last year made the utilities

sector a bonanza for the City.

The utilities will be lifting the

payout to shareholders by 17

per over last year's figures. The

comparison excludes com-

es that have since

taken over. Dividend growth

per cent while South West Water is forecast to be more

The profits of some com-

panies will leap phenomenally

this year after they recover

year to restructure businesses

and integrate takeovers. Hy-der, the Welsh multi-utility

ing electricity company, in 1995, is expected to lift its profits by 84 per cent to £208 million. Thames Water, which

has the highest leakage rate in

the country at just under 40

per cent, is predicted to lift

profits by 56 per cent to £350 million after it took high restructuring charges last year Yorkshire Water, which

last year took a £47 million

charge to pay for emergency measures in the 1995 drought,

will lift its figures by about 34 per cent to £218 million.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities ana-

lyst at Yamaichi, expects the Treasury to take strong signals

from the figures and the com-mitment of companies to ag-gressive dividend policies. But he believes the companies will

attempt to dress up high fig-

unes with customer promises.

They will hike up what they

have done for customers and

any reduction in leakage rates

at Panmure Gordon, said: "The

companies are resigned to the

windfall tax. I don't expect

them to try to suppress the dividends artificially. They will

deliver what they have

National Power and

PowerGen last week reported profits of £740 million and

£575 million respectively. ScottishPower has also deliv-

ered a jump of 37 per cent to

£558 million after its absorp-

tion of Southern Water.

will be heavily touted." vill be heavily touted." Angelos Anastasiou, analyst

promised."

than 22 per cent.

exemption or a low levy.

PRIVATISED utility companies will next week report to soar. Many water companies have promised to pay soaring profits that will be seized on by the Government as justification for the planned windfall tax.

In total the privatised utilities, including regional companies that have been taken over, are expected to deliver profits of more than £6.7 billion. If BT's record profits of £3.2 billion are added, the

profits touch £9.9 billion. The windfall tax has to raise £3 billion to fulfil the Government's youth employment pledges but some ministers are believed to be arguing that the target should be much higher, perhaps allowing companies to pay in two stages. A figure between £5 billion and

E7 billion has been suggested The water companies will fuel the controversy over high for Yorkshire Water will top 18 profits when they start reporting next week. Analysts forecast that profits from the electricity and water companies yet to report will show a 13.5 per cent rise on the £5.9 billion delivered in 1995-96. Factored in to the figures are expected returns for the regional electricity companies

BUSINESS TODAY

now in American ownership.

Dividends are also expected

FTSE 100 4661.8 (+10.0)
Yield 3.51%
FTSE All share 2216.7 (+4.0)
Nikitel 20009.00 (+131.61)

ord Finds 5-%* (5'4%) g Bond 95"=* (95"=) 1 --- 8,96%* (8.99%)

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Brent 15 day (Aug) \$20.00 (\$20.20)

ondon date \$343.15 (\$342.75). denotes midday trading price

GKN battle

GKN scored a vital point in its continuing US court battle which may be enough to safeguard most of last year's profit. The automotive and aerospace group won the right to appeal against one of the biggest damages awards ever made against a British

BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant

SATURDAY MAY 24 1997



Even the Queen wore protective shoes at the opening of the microchip plant in Wallsend

Siemens plans 1,000 new jobs

By OLIVER AUGUST

PLANS to create a further 1,000 jobs in Tyneside as part of Britain's biggest inward investment have been drawn from heavy costs taken last up by Siemens, the German electronics group that is al-ready one of the biggest employers in the North East.
The group's £Ll billion microchip plant is set for formed when Welsh Water bought Swalec, its neighbour-

Shares dive as

Laura Ashley

directors go

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Laura Ashley

yesterday fell to their lowest level since July 1995 as two

senior management depar-tures sparked talk of a

management rebellion in the troubled fashion and

furnishing chain.

chip market recovers from its recent 75 per cent price plunge. It was officially opened by the Queen yesterday with video pictures and sound transmitted live on the Internet. The quality was poor and deteriorated as

more people logged on for the Queen's first live appearance on the World Wide Web. Siemens's 750-strong work-

dramatic expansion as the force will more than double when two plants are added in coming years. Most of the extra jobs will be in high-skill

engineering areas. The group has already hinted that the workforce should reach 1,500 when the second plant is finished on a site near the old Swan Hunter shipyard. A third plant, as yet undisclosed, is expected.

BCCI losers win fraudster's funds

By Jon Ashworth

VICTIMS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) won an important victory yesterday, when a High Court judge ruled that they are entitled to nearly £3 million from the estate of Abbas Gokal, the

As a company spokeswom-an dismissed a report of a disgraced BCCI fraudster. Gokal, jailed for 14 years earlier this month, had been management crisis as "wildly inaccurate speculation", the shares dipped 7p to 95p, down ordered to pay £2.94 million from last year's peak of 219p. When Ann Iverson, who is within two years or face an additional three years in prispaid more than £1 million a on. Mr Justice Buxton, the trial judge, has extended his original confiscation order to include compensation, meanyear, was named as Laura Ashley chief executive in June 1995, the shares were 80p. The setback stems from ing that any monies recovered the impending departures of will now pass to the BCC! Julie Ramshaw, merchandliquidators, not the Treasury.

ising director, and Dominic Recoveries will contribute to Lavelle, finance director for future BCCI payouts. the UK and Europe, who are The confiscation order was the biggest passed in British courts. Christopher Morris, of both 34. Mr Lavelle is to be finance director of a quoted company. Ms Ramshaw, Deloitte & Touche, the joint who joined Laura Ashley liquidator of BCCI, said that early last year, is said to be he was "very pleased" with the development, but intends to returning to the City, where she used to be an analyst. press on with a raft of civil actions against Gokai and City Diary, page 29 Tempus, page 30 others, including the Bank of

England. Mr Morris said: The damage he caused to BCCI and its creditors was significant, and we will continue to pursue his assets worldwide."

Gokal enjoyed a millionaire lifestyle as head of the Gulf Group, flying first class, and staying at the world's most exclusive hotels. He conspired with senior executives of BCCI to siphon off huge sums over the years, enjoying the pro-ceeds even as his shipping company fell deeper and deeper into debt. The Gulf Group owed \$1.2 billion to BCCI by the time BCCl was shut down by the Bank of England in 1991. Yesterday's move was welcomed by Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East, who has cam-

paigned on behalf of victims of the BCCI fraud. Mr Vaz said: "I'm absolutely delighted by the decision, because it means that those who have suffered as a result of the fraud will now benefit." He urged BCCI's liquidators to push through the recoveries as

A tall order? Recent indicators suggest otherwise. In fact, the outlook for feeding the 15 billion diners expected to inhabit the planet by the end of the next century has never

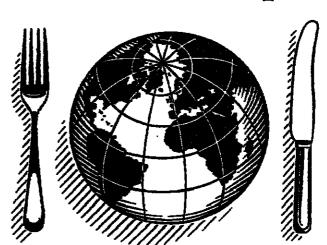
looked brighter. The question is, what will be on the menu? As Europe goes cold on meat, countries like China demand more every year. Martin Currie has the international investment expertise to make sense of changes in the world's food markets, as they become free from the restraints of geography and season.

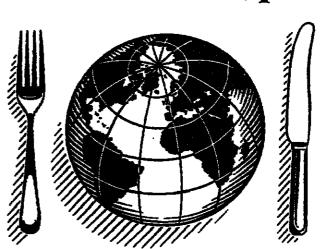


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"Table for 15 billion, please."





Davies is Bank policy nominee with strong anti-inflation views will still BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

FINANCIAL EDITOR

HOWARD DAVIES, the departing Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, is to be one of the Bank's four nominees on the eight-man interim monetary policy committee at its first meeting on June 6. Eddie George, the Governor, will chair the committee. As expected, the Bank's other representatives are Mervyn King, its economic director, and lan Plenderleith, the Bank's man in City

The City is watching anxiously for the Chancellor's choice of four monetary company in America: Page 28 | advisers, yet to be announced. Only a list

the disquiet after this week's whispers from Government sources that Mr George will not be reappointed next year. Two former Bank of England econo-

mists are tipped as Establishment candidates. Charles Goodhart, 60, was its longtime monetary adviser before returning to the London School of Economics. John Flemming, 56, chief economic adviser during the 1980s, returned to Oxford.

Lord Currie, 50, of the London Business School, is a Labour peer. As David Currie, he was one of Kenneth Clarke's independent economic forecasters. These started as the wise men but two women later joined: Bridget Rosewell of Business

- Market Control of the Control of t

Strategies, and Kate Barker of the CBI. Mr Brown will be anxious for the Bank's monetary committee not to be men-only. Marian Beli, respected economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, is tipped.

Among City economists, Roger Bootle of Midland Bank carries weight. Richard Layard, the economist, is expected to play a role but may become one of the economic advisers who will replace the panel.

Gavyn Davies, a partner in Goldman Sachs and a friend of Mr Brown and Tony Blair, remains the favourite to succeed Mr Davies, who is due to head the Securities and Investments Board

So may we suggest a starter?

MARTIN · CURRIE

GKN wins

damages, which were in-curred by Meineke Muffler, a

US subsidiary, in a dispute in-

Meineke, a car exhaust business, is charged with fraud, breach of contract and negli-

gence in its handling of pay-

ments by its franchisees. The

North Carolina court ruled

yesterday that a third of franchisees had excluded

themselves from winning any

damages under a separate

centred on a total of only \$31

million, but, under controver-sial US trade legislation, GKN

was suddenly faced with a bill

of \$740 million after the inclu-

sion of punitive damages

awarded by a jury. The appeal will be heard in

a Federal court in Washington and could take up to 18

months. However, an out-of-

court settlement, which would

reduce the damages further, is

now likely.

A GKN spokesman said:

For the other side, an out-of-

court settlement may look

quite attractive now. If the

right circumstances could be

found, that would short-circuit

By the end of the appeals process, the case will have

run for more than three

years, costing both sides

millions of dollars in legal

the whole process."

contract with Meineke. The original court case

volving advertising funds.

GKN, in its continuing US court battle, yesterday soored a vital point that may safeguard most of last year's

The automotive and aerospace group won the right to appeal against one of the niggest damages awards ever made against a British company in the US. A North Carolina court also confirmed a 34 per cent reduction in damages, from £360 million to

Last year GKN earned pretax profits of £363 million. At

Financial chief quits Sketchley

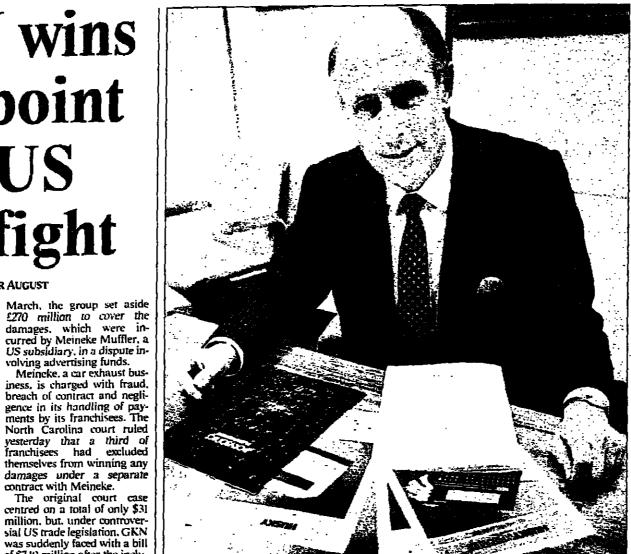
RICHARD MEYERS has resigned as finance director of Sketchley after the discovery of a £10 million black hole in its accounts earlier this week (Oliver

August writes). It is believed that he will receive around half of his £130,000 annual salary as a payoff, which was agreed during a lengthy board meeting. He was on

a rolling one-year contract. The dry cleaning company refused to disclose whether Mr Meyers had volunteered to resign or had been asked to do so. A new finance director has vet to be appointed.

The £10 million charges. resulting from "accounting deficiencies", will wipe out profits of £8 million that Sketchley had announced for last year. The losses are not believed to involve fraud or other criminal activities.

Tempus, page 30



Ken Maud's contract ended after boardroom disagreement over future strategy

Troubled Peek sacks chief

BY ADAM JONES

PEEK, the electronics group that makes traffic control and field data systems, has parted company with Ken Maud, its executive chairman, one month after issuing a losses warning that wiped 42 per cent off the value of its shares.

The company said yesterday that Mr Maud's service contract was terminated "following a continuing disagreement over future strategy". Allen Standley, chief execu-

wanted to pursue a more cautious strategy than Mr Maud in acquisitions and overseas expansion. He added that last month's warning of a likely interim loss of £L.5 million before tax, compared to £4 million profit in the same period in 1996, hastened the change. The drop was

partly caused by flat sales and

Peek shares rose 4½p, to

unexpected cost increases.

tive, said that the board 394p, on news of his departure. Mr Maud's severance package is still being discussed. He was on a two-year rolling contract and received total remuneration of £202,000 in 1996.

Peek has appointed David Walsh, a solicitor who is currently a non-executive director, as non-executive chairman. He is also a non-executive director of Carlisle

nine months A JOINT operation by the Sec-

urities and investments Board, the senior City watchdog, and Hertfordshire police ended yes-terday with a former company director being jailed at St Albans Crown Court and investors receiving a £2 million boost.

ed by the Crown Prosecution Service and sentenced on four counts, jailed for nine months and disqualified from being a

The charges against him included fraudulently inducing a person to make an investment, making misleading statements and procuring the execution of a valuable security. Investiga-

tions into Shrubb and Asset Management Limited, his company, which was regis-tered in London and the Isle of Man, began in 1992.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Soco to be

valued at

£128m in

flotation

By CHRIS AYRES

SOCO INTERNATIONAL

the oil and gas company, will be capitalised at £128 million

when it makes its debut on the

It will be the higgest flora-

tion of an oil and gas company in London since

Enterprise Oil joined the

Soco, which is raising £86

million via the flotation, was

formed through the merger of

the international exploration

and production assets of Sny-

der Oil Corporation, of Ameri-

ca. and Cairn Energy, of

Cairn and Snyder have a

long history of working to-

gether. The relationship be-

tween the two companies will be cemented further when Ed

Story, a director of Snyder and

the president and chief execu-

tive officer of Soco, joins the

board of Cairn early next month. The non-executive chairman of Soco is Peter

Kingston, a founding director

to accelerate and expand

projects in Mongolia. Soco

also has operations in Russia,

Yemen, Thailand, Tunisia and the UK.

Snyder Oil Corporation will

own 16 per cent of the new

company, and Cairn Energy

will own 10 per cent. Mr Story

will own nearly £2 million

worth of shares, representing

about 2 per cent of the total

AML director

jailed for

Roger Shrubb was prosecut-

Tempus, page 30

The flotation funds will help

of Enterprise.

stock.

stock market next week.

market in 1984.

Barnes stays on as Zeneca chief

SIR DAVID BARNES is to stay on as chief executive of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals and fertilisers group, until 1999, a year beyond his expected retirement date. Sir Sydney Lipworth, Zeneca's chairman, told shareholders at their annual meeting yesterday that the extension to Sir David's contract was at the invitation of the board. The move was interpreted by some as an indication that Zeneca feels that it needs extra time to sort out the succession to Sir David, 61, who has headed the company since it was demerged from ICI in 1993.

Zeneca said that underlying growth in its pre-tax profits had continued at around 15 per cent during the first four months of this year, a rate similar to that achieved in the first half of 1996. However, Sir Sydney gave warning that the strength of sterling would have a "dampening effect" when the results were reported in sterling. Zeneca's shares closed op higher, at £18.72½.

£100m debenture issue

EDINBURGH Investment Trust is issuing £100 million of Debenture Stock 2022 in a move that will double its levels of gearing to 16 per cent. The proceeds will be invested in equities over the next six to 12 months. This is the fifth-such issue this year bringing the total raised to £185 million (£18 million in 1006). All five have been handled by NatWest Markets. The 1996). All five have been handled by NatWest Markets. The stock's coupon will be paid at the end of March and September and at issue will have a gross redemption yield 47 basis points over Treasury Stock 2021. Tempus. page 30

Lanica sets results date

LANICA, the controversial investment trust run by Andrew Regan, is to release its 1996 results on June 2. Shares in the Guernsey-based investment vehicle were suspended by the London. Stock Exchange in the light of Mr Regan's discredited bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society through a sister company. Galileo. Publication of the results will remove one of the final obstacles to Lanica's relisting. The shares are expected to plummet immediately from the £19.50 level reached before their suspension on February 10.

Euromoney strengthens

EUROMONEY PUBLICATIONS achieved a 5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £11.45 million to £12.04 million in the six months to March 31 after strong performances by its training and publishing businesses. The company says that it has established its Internet site and that its new MTWare database is performing well, with more databases being developed. Turnover was £48.9 million (£44.9 million) and earnings per share were 35.66p (31.96p). An interim dividend of 18p (14p) will be paid on June 30.

Dawson market move

DAWSON HOLDINGS, the third-largest newspaper wholesaler in Britain, is planning to join the main market next January. The company saw its share price quadruple on the Alternative Investment Market from 480p to more than £20. before a recent 10-for-1 share split. Yesterday the company reported pre-tax profits up 14 per cent, from £14.15 million to £16.15 million, for the six months to March 31, on turnover of E397.4 million (E286.8 million). Earnings per share were 21.22p (18.99p). An interim dividend of 2p (1.2p) is due on June 9.

Trust Financial order

BRITISH and German investors are believed to have jost money in Trust Financial Group (Europe), which had offices in London and Hamburg. The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, yesterday issued an Intervention Order against Trust Financial to cease forthwith from carrying on any investment business" and "to arrange for the disposal or transfer of client positions and assets by no later than June 13". The SFA has passed a file to the German authorities.

mate

Belling pension trustee sues for £3m claims that the advisers were

BY ROBERT MILLER

TRUSTEES acting for the Belling Pension Fund are to sue the auditor and stockbroker to the scheme for nearly E3 million.

company, has lodged writs in the Chancery division of

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

the High Court, against Hereward Philips, the auditor and Greig Middleton, the broker, over their role in the sale of Compound Sections Limited (CSL), a subsidiary of Belling. the company that is renowned

nts for its Baby Belling cooker. The independent trustee

skill and care" in advising the pension fund trustees over the sale of CSL Belling sold Compound Sec-

THE SESS TIMES

needed funds to save the company, which finally went

variously negligent or failed rately, the pension fund also to exercise reasonable or any became the victim of a £3.5 million fraud, which generated an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. This led last year to Charles Deacon, a ed and sent to prison for nine

TOURIST RATES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

For Howard Davies the offer came out of the blue. In Business tomorrow, how the new super-regulator will police the City

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CHANGING TIMES

A WORKING WEEK FOR: ALLAN BRIDGEWATER

A goal in sight for cautious revolutionary

Martin Waller meets the insurance man whose careful leadership has been

behind Norwich Union's transformation

ers should not be afraid of taking risks. Ditto racing drivers, one supposes, and naries. By contrast, some professionals should by their nature be very cautious.

Train drivers, nuclear power workers or insurance men, who are charged with ensuring the money is there to tide their clients over life's little mishaps or ensure a prosperous retirement.

Allan Bridgewater has been an insurance man throughout his working life. and he is a deeply cautious man. For Norwich Union, the group he will take to the stock market next month, it has been caution every step of the way -from when the company confirmed in October 1995 its intention to float, right up to last week's announcement of a special discount for members wanting

That 1995 announcement was like one of those declarations of intention to fight for the Conservative Party leadership just after the election. It was made with all due formality, and it told the market

nothing new. Norwich Union had always been expected to be one of those mutuals, whether He clearly building societies or inbelieves in surance companies, to demutualise and float, engaging his to the benefit of its three brain fully million members. It was significant that it took the insurer most of 1995 before opening to confirm this inten-

his mouth Bridgewater spent 30 years steeped in the conservative, inward-looking business which, as is the way with such mutual. organisations, was theoretically answerable to its members but in reality answerable to nobody. He was appointed chief executive in 1989 and spent the next few years trying to turn round this

culture into one more suitable for a public quoted company. He was helped, if that is the term, by the stock market crash, the property market collapse, the Gulf War and some horrendous results from the general insurance industry in 1990 and 1991. This made the process of injecting than if it had all had been plain sailing. But it must have been difficult coping with all that, surely? "Yes."

Pressed, he adds: "The shock associated with that combination engendered an environment in which the process of change probably was more readily addressed and accepted than had we not had that combination of circumstances."

Many of Bridgewater's pronouncements come out like that, as if taken straight from the annual chief executive's report, sentences perfect in struc-ture if a little-heavy in management unhelpful, but he is clearly one of those people who believe in engaging his brain fully before he opens his mouth. This and a natural courtesy give his speech the flavour of written prose.

He is, he says, enormously interested in words, and their derivation, digressing unexpectedly to explain the source of the word sincere (It has to do with ancient potters and whether their faulty ware was disguised with wax). This fascination might be surprising in one who left school at 16 to work as an office boy at the Scottish Union, which ended up with the Norwich in 1959.

Bridgewater's career was interrupted by the obligatory National Service, at Hornchurch, as a personnel selection assessor for the RAF. This seems an onerous responsibility for a mere 18year-old, slotting aircrew into the proper job, but he says summing up people is still one of his main strengths.

By the age of 20 Bridgewater was back in insurance, and with his first company car - he reels off make, colour, distinguishing features and the number plate, and then repeats the trick for its successor. Ask him why he chose insurance, against the promptings of his

tried to steer him into a career in light engineer-ing — "He thought that air-conditioning was something of the future. and a natural ability to hold a screwdriver" and his memory abruptly fails: "It's a long time ago to recall the exact sequence of events." Again you press him.

He adds: "I was deter-

mined to do my own thing. Insurance had a broader remit than banking. I was interested to do something in the sphere of commercial, office-based enterprise with opportunities in career terms that took one out of the office."

In essence, it was a blue collar/white collar choice, he admits. Wisely, he eschewed the screwdriver for the fountain pen. Bridgewater's progression to chief executive took him through an organisation as rigid and hidebound as any civil service department, where the size of one's office, carpet and the minutest change of job title defined one's place in the hierarchy. An outsider, one example, would be more dismissive of all this. He is, typically, more tactful.

'You should be able in a positive way to justify change rather than base it rather negatively on criticism of your predecessors," he says. "If you are suddenly pitchforked into the hot seat and you reflect on what the future holds and believe that Norwich Union needs major change in terms of its culture, financial disciplines or people; either you do nothing about it and drift on, or you say 'we are in for an extended period



Allan Bridgewater is confident that Norwich Union has a future as an independent operator despite being open to predators once the shares are quoted

He is equally guarded about his political views — "I and Norwich Union are apolitical." But he admits to some excitement at the appointment of Frank Field to look at reform of the welfare state. Private pensions, healthcare, protection of income - it can only be good for his company, he accepts.

Some City observers believe that however much the culture may have changed, Norwich Union could easily be picked off by a predator once the

available. 'I still remain confident that Norwich Union has a future as an independent operator," says Bridgewater. "There's no reason why Norwich Union should not be sensibly cast in the role of one of those who will be a player in the market, rather than be played.

Press him harder - again - on whether he would feel a sense of personal failure if his career came to an end in such a way, and he admits he would be "gobsmacked". That means surprised, surely, I ask this self-confessed words buff. "Disappointed". comes the alternative, then upgraded to "very disappointed*

Ahead of him there is the sheer awfulness of a three-week institutional roadshow, now under way, putting over the same message again and again. Would he become tired, or bored even? He likens himself, whimsically, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, also charged with putting over the same message on frequent occasions without moving too far

"I think it's an exciting prospect to share positively this transformed Nor-

put your

money

on the

TORTOISE

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wich Union as a worthwhile investment," he says. "It will be tiring, I've no doubt. but I enjoy talking about Norwich Union. If you believe what you are saying, then okay, while there may be an element of tiredness, your conviction or commitment

in saying it should be the same at the end as at the beginning." But takeover or not, retirement still looms at the end of this year, at the age of 61. "There is, even for me, a life outside and beyond Norwich Union," says

ater. But he is not going to say what it might hold. "I haven't quite had time to think all

that through. I think there will be some business opportunities where such experience as I have I will bring into play." He is a council member of Business in the Community, and trustee and treasurer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference, among other good

"There's an opportunity to spend more time with my wife. There are places I've been to and never seen anything else but the hotel and the office.

out once we have this prime project of the

Cradle snatch

founder, has ambitions for her children's shops, the delightfully named Trotters. Mirman, who has one on the King's Road and another on High Street Kensington, jointly turning over £3.5 million a year, plans a move into mail order in the autumn, selling clothes, shoes, toys, books and accessories. Says Mirman. who built a paper £50 million fortune in the 1980s before events turned against her: "We get faxes from all over the world from people wanting

Trotters has a hairdressing facility - something which has not gone unnoticed elsewhere. Tim Waterstone, considerably richer after selling his bookshops to WH Smith in 1994, is about to open Daisy & Tom, a children's shop which will bear a strange resemblance to the above and will be just around the corner. No coincidence, perhaps, that Waterstone has been a regular at Trotters since Mirman opened her first shop in 1990.

● A TENDER filial tale family. Sir Richard Sykes. chairman of Glaxo Wellcome,



BOOTIES at dawn on the King's Road, I hear. Sophie Mirman, the Sock Shop founder, has ambinions for her what you need is some Zantac." he says. Zantac, the wonder ulcer drug, cornerstone of Glaxo's fortunes, best-selling com-pound in the world, just the thing. So Mrs Sykes goes down to the chemist. He, alas, has no truck with the fancier pharmaceuticals. He sells Mrs Sykes some bicarb. Mrs Sykes gets on the phone to her boy again. Sir Richard, keen to avenge this slight, promises to send her some pronto. Except that there is none to hand at Glaxo Wellcome. So someone has to todale down to the

Japanese tip

LEAFING through my advance copy of European Pharmaceutical Contractor, I see Dr Malcolm VandenBurg, who sold his pharmaceutical research company to the Japanese and still runs it, has provided some tips for Margaret Beckett ahead of her trip to Japan this weekend. Be both confident and self-effacing, which seems tricky even for the most two-faced politician. Do not pat small children on the head, Margaret, so no kissing babies. The stickiest bit is the evening entertaining. because it is so hard to tell when the formalities have ended and the fun is beginning. "The Japanese change salamander-like spontaneously," says VandenBurg mysteriously. Does he mean that one moment they're fine, the next they re all inebriated as newts?

THOSE of you still enjoying your breakfast, pass over this bit. North West Water won a public apology at the High Court yesterday from The Ormskirk Advertiser, which last year published a story claiming that the company had provided strangely con-



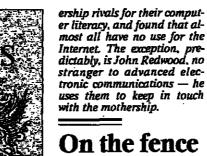
as a result of which a resident had suffered serious health problems. I suppose the origi-nal headline was a bit provocative: "Human flesh found in

Job for Julie

JULIE RAMSHAW, the former City retail analyst who has just exited from Laura Ashley under mysterious circumstances, can strike Hoare Govett off her list of prospective employers. I suggested yesterday she might care to approach the Dutch-owned broker, but, alas, one of the two posts going there on the retail team has just been filled. Eithne O'Leary is moving from corporate finance next month to try her luck as an analyst - not before time, because in July her new colleague, Emma Burdett, is off on maternity leave. This still leaves a hole at Hoare, which is keen to expand retail coverage into Europe

What can we find for poor Julie, then? My spy says there is great ferment on the retail pitches. She might try Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, where she will bump into some old mates from Morgan Stanley. Salomon Brothers is expanding, James Capel might be after someone on the retail side. There's a whole world out there, Julie. Go

 EBN, the business news ser vice, has polled the Tory lead-



INVESTORS at next week's Williams Holdings annual

meeting will be asked to pass a resolution allowing the com-pany to make political donations totalling £25,000 a year. Curious, because Williams has for a good five years now made just such an award to the Conservative Party, an event possibly connected to chairman Sir Nigel Rudd's links with the Derby Tories. A spokesman at Williams at first denies the existence of any such proposal. Then another suggests this is a legal requirement, which it is not. Then he says it is required by the Cadbury Code, which is not

I wonder, playfully, whether Sir Nigel has caught the spirit of the times, and wants permission to switch Williams's allegiances. At this, the various Williams spokesmen go into a curious kind of huddle, from which no sound emerges. Perhaps someone might ask for clarification on Wednesday.

MARTIN WALLER



higher risk. In this case conventional wisdom is wrong. GVG Asset Management run private client portfolios and our Low Risk Growth strategy can deliver: Outstanding performance providing a better

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Postcode

(I) Halifax Solid Gold 90 Day £25,000+ with net income reinvested. (2) Low Risk Growth Model Portfolio

(2)

performance, allowing for all dealing costs and annual charges but excluding initial charge. (3) FTSE All Share Index performance 31/3/91 – 31/3/97 is up 75.9% (capital performance only).

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Rolls-Royce nears peak as foreign limit is breached profits warning. The group was up 1½ p at 68½ p.

wards this year's peak of 259p with a rise of 212 p to 25012 p as the limit on foreign ownership laid down in the company's articles of association was breached.

Earlier this week, the aeroengine group announced that the number of foreign investors holding the shares had reached the limit of 29.9 per cent laid down by the Government when it was privatised in 1057. Foreign holders breaching the limit will now be forced

to sell.
This may present the Government with something of a problem if Roils-Royce asks for the limit to be lifted or abandoned altogether.

Many of those foreign investors are European, including BMW which has 5 per cent of the shares. Brokers are now saying the European Commission may soon demand to know why fellow Europeans are deemed to be foreigners.

Under the terms of the golden share in Rolls-Royce the Government can block unwanted bids and limit the amount of overseas directors as well as imposing a limit on foreign shareholders.

151

161

PL

Another company that will also be facing the same problem soon is British Aerospace where the level of foreign investment had reached 25 per cent at the last count. Yesterday shares in the company. whose chairman is Sir Richard Evans, soared 23p to £12.55½ as the German Government reaffirmed its commitment to the European Fighter project which had

been in some doubt. Elsewhere in the sector. Smiths Industries ended the week on a firm note with a rise of 1512 p at 76612 p, also reflecting the apparent change of heart by the Germans. SBC Warburg, the broker, has reiterated its "buy" recommendation for the shares.

The rest of the equity market ended the week strongly with the help of a raily by

The FT-SE 100 index halved earlier gains but still managed a rise of 10,0 at 4,661.8, a fall on the week of 32.1. Total turnover was a modest 743 million shares.

Once again the banks led the way higher with Alliance & Leicester blazing a trail with a leap of 39p at 63Sp as the news went round that the unofficial grey market in shares of the Halifax Building



Sir Richard Evans saw British Aerospace shares take off

Society had opened at 700p. By the close turnover in A&L had reached reached 11.83 million shares.

Others to make headway included Abbey National, 150 to 93212 p. and HSBC, 3212 p to £18.44. Bardays rose 30p to £12.3812 with the help of a buy" recommendation from NatWest Securities.

Laura Ashley hit a low for

through the market at a sizeable discount to the ruling price. Brokers reported a putthrough in 14.5 million shares at the 147p level by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. They were later sold on in two separate parcels at 149p. Thorn is due to unveil its first set of full-year figures next week since the demerger from EMI. Brokers

are looking for virtually static

Telewest, the loss-making cable operator, continued to plumb new depths as the price slumped 5p. to 63p. That compares with the 182p that the shares were floated at in December 1994. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, remains bearish of the sector generally and claims that Telewest is only worth 50p.

the year with a fall of 7p to 95p. for a loss on the week of 9p. It follows confirmation that two senior executives have resigned leading to speculation about rifts within the troubled group. Earlier this month, the soft furnishings group headed by Ann Iverson rocked the City with a profits warning. The share price was at the time trading around the 134p

Thorn dropped 4p to 15212p as a large line of stock went

pre-tax profits of £170 million. By the close of business total turnover in the shares had reached almost 30 million.

Morgan Grenfell also arranged a put-through in four million United Biscuits shares at 210p. The price finished op lower at 2134 p. Confirmation of the depar-

ture of Richard Meyers as finance director provided Sketchley with the opportunity to claw back some of the losses prompted by this week's

MOVERS OF THE WEEK Guren grice Broker downgrades Two executives resign 9p..... +52'₂p... Profits warning Profits warning ... 68'∻p . 114'÷p ... 26'∶p .. 497'⁄₂p Large stake changes hands

A fresh surge of bid speculation hoisted J D Wetherspoon 22 p to a new peak of £12.75 in a thin market. Positive comments on its their proposed (20 billion merger from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. the broker, lifted Guinness 192p to 593p and Grand Metropolitan 20p to 593p. National Express, which

saw its acquisitions of the ScotRail and Central Trains franchises to the MMC egainst the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, rallied 7p to 40712 p. HSBC James Capel. the broker, rates the shares a

there were further losses for the other coach operators which fear regulatory interference in their af-Go-Ahead Group fairs. slipped 3½p to 445p. Stagecoach 3p to 645p, and

FirstBus 5p to 209p. Talk that the long, drawnout battle of control for the Savoy Hotel chain may be drawing to a close lifted the

shares 95p to £15.824. Fears of an intensification of the mobile phones price war left Vodafone 5p off at 26814 p. Orange 412p at 20812p, and Cable and Wireless Communications 2½ p at 491½ p. It follows changes to Mercury One-2-One's charges. One-2-One has fallen in line with the other operators by scrapping free calls at the weekend and off-peak charges. Under the new scheme subscribers will pay a flat rate and be offered minutes of free calls.

GILT-EDGED: Prices rallied across the board as the market managed to outperform German bunds and claw back some of Thursday's sharp falls that stemmed from the poor take-up of the long

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose £1932 to end the day at £1121532 as the total number of contracts reached 73,000, well below the previous day's 143,000. ong longer dated con-

ventional issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on 13, at £107°32, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was E316 better at E103132. □ NEW YORK: Shares held

to early morning gains but traders expected activity to ease sharply going into the three-day holiday. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 39.56 to 7.297.69 at midday.

MAJOR INDICES
New York (midday): Dow Junes 7297.69 (+39.56) SAP Composite 840.51 (+4.85)
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 20009.00 (+131.61)

Hong Kong. Amsterdam: Sydney:

Frankfurt Singapore Brussels:

Paris: London:

4661.8 (+10.0) 4506.7 (+5.2) 2257.7 (+4.4 F13E Alf-Share 2216.7 (+0.0) FTSE Non Financials 2228.10 (+0.00) FTSE Fixed Interest 2228.10 (+0.00) SEAQ Volume 2,7557 (-0.0115

RECENT ISSUES

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MAJOR CHANGES

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Celltech	, 437'±p (+15p)
Grand Met	593p (+2UP)
REXAM	301% p (+10p)
Marks & Science:	516p (+ 15'2P)
Next	732 ¹ -p (+14p)
Leeds	150o (±100)
AEA Tech	471n (+160)
AEA IBUI	0931-5 (± 157)
Abbey National	932·2þ (* 13þ)
FALLS:	
Innovative Tech	273'30 (-190)
Flextech	5851-0 (-220)
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FALLS:	•
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Euro Leisure	136'ap (-9p)
Johnston	480p (-15p)
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Molims	. 300p (-17 sp)
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Com Union	734p (-10°-0)
CONTONUE III	

Closing Prices Page 44

TEMPUS

Store of trouble

UNTIL yesterday, Julie Ramshaw's main claim to fame was as the investment analyst who tipped Next at 7p, just as the company looked bound to fail. For a while, her arrival as Laura Ashley's merchandising director in January last year looked similarly well timed. Laura Ashley almost doubled in value during her first six months.

Those hopeful days are now an age away and the fashion and furnishings retailer is struggling once again. Ms Ramshaw has chosen this moment to bale out, along with Dominic Lavelle, a divisional finance director, prompting speculation about a management rebellion and a crisis over strategy. Yesterday, the shares slid a further 7p to 95p.

On the face of it, it is easy to rubbish the rebellion talk, as the company itself inevitably tries to do. Mr Lavelle is leaving for a bigger

and better job while Ms Ramshaw is still working some notice. Additionally, Ms. Ramshaw must take a share of the blame for the over-ordering of stock that will cost Laura Ashley £4 million and caused last month's profit warning. She may just have decided that she is not cut out for the job and would be

better off back in the City. Which, when you think about it, is a thought that should have occurred to Ann Iverson, Laura Ashley's chief executive. When Ms Ramshaw joined the company, she was 32 and had spent the previous five years at Morgan Stanley. Her hands-on experience was of carpet retailing in her 20s. Yet she was put in charge of merchandising, the area that absolutely everyone believes Laura Ashley needs to get right. As Ms Iverson may be learning, enthusiasm alone is not enough.

Sketchley

THIS WEEK'S disclosure that Sketchley has lost a further £10 million will leave investors with only one conclusion to draw: stay as far away as possible from this company. Some may be tempted to buy the shares now that they are at their lowest for 20 years. However, a business that has disappointed its shareholders so regularly does not deserve support now.

The ease with which all of last year's profits seem to have been wasted will partieularly anger those who participated in the recent £20 million rights issue. The promised turnround will have to wait another year.

The black hole has arisen because the company was subletting its premises at less than the rent it was paying. This £7 million mis-

tracts were signed? The finance director may no longer be around to answer this question, but the rest of the board and finance team should also have been aware of the problem. For such a relatively small company, tors confidence.

are fond of investment trust

debentures as they are well

covered and provide good

returns. However, supply-

has been tight since the

British Investment Trust

bought back its stock earlier

this year. Meanwhile, gilt

yields are close to a 25-year

low while costs of issuing the

paper have dropped. New

accounting rules last year

enable boards to split the cost

between capital and income

reserves. Whatever, the rea-

sons, investors should be pleased to see traises playing

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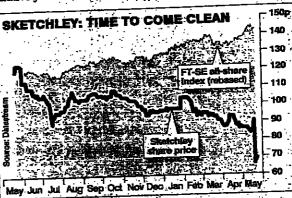
surprise. Why was it not

factored into the accounts

when the subletting con-

£10 million is too big a sum take cannot have came as a to be lost without the board's knowledge. If Richard Meyers really was the only culprit, then perhaps the responsibilities of board members should become more interlinked.

The dry cleaner will have to be seen to be whiter than white before it regains inves-



Investment trusts

IT TOOK years for the Treasury to push through, but the introduction of the open-ended investment company (Oeic) is already paying off. It is too early to say if investors will find the single price fund structure easier to use or if fund management companies will really be able to crusade into the European market on the back of the Brussels-compatible structure. Nevertheless, one side effect has been clear: invest-

ment trusts are waking up. Yesterday, Edinburgh vestment Trust became the fifth trust this year to issue a debenture, after the likes of Growth, TR Property, Scottish American and Dunedin Smaller Companies. The company hopes to raise £100 million which it will invest in stock markets over the next

Several factors have combined to provoke this bullish action. Institutional investors

DOLLAR HATES

ALL the fun in the oil sector is to be found in the more exotic their shares soar this year after the oil and gas company made a huge gas discovery in

This raises the question of . whether Soco, the interna-

WAL STREET

tional oil and gas group cre ated by Cairn and Snyder, can repeat the magic on its

acreage in Mongolia. Soco has started drilling in only two wells and has tested one of them so far, although that has already produced 15 million barrels of oil. The company says it will not know for a further two months whether this will bring any serious discoveries

The rest of Soco's investments are a mixed bag. Operations in Russian are held back by local bureaucracy and drilling operations in Theiland and Tunisia are small and unpromising. The Yemen and the UK should provide a steady cashflow.

Soco is not a sure thing, alits placing price of 260p repreparts of the world. Investors sents a discount of at least 10 in Cairn Energy have seen per cent on Russian assets and a virtually free risk in Mongolia. A home at least for some of the institutional money seeking a weighting in the oil and gas sector - and a punt for the small investor.

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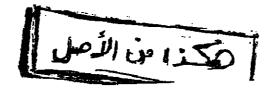
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Is it still better to wait for a higher rate?

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BEAT THE SYSTEM 38

A textbook example of how to fight back



IMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Slimming regime for regulators

ordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, this week seized City watchdogs by the collar and promised radical reforms which he argued were "essential to ensure the future confidence of investors".

Under Mr Brown's reforms, existing junior watchdogs responsible for regulating sales of life assurance, personal pensions and investments to the public will be gobbled up by a new, super Securities and Investments Board, which will also take on responsibility for banks.

Building societies also look set to come under the super SIB umbrella, although the Building Societies Commission, the current regulator, has yet to be informed of its fate.

The aim of the planned shake-up is to destroy once and for all the current unwieldy and discredited system of regulation, which since its implementation ten years ago, has presided over some of the worst financial scandals of recent times. Pension mis-selling, the home income plan scandal, BCCI and the theft of pensioners' money from Mirtor Group Newspapers have all made headline news and meant losses totalling billions of pounds for innocent

Less high profile but just as upsetting have been individual investors' battles to seek redress from a system apparently constructed more to satisfy the vested interests of the financial services industry than to provide genuine help.

Mr Brown's promise change was welcomed by all sides. But slimming down the Sara McConnell reports on the Chancellor's plans to replace

City watchdogs with a super SIB

excessive number of regulators is only part of it. The existing legislation is also full of holes. It does not cover deposit accounts. Members of the public taking out mortgages, or buying expensive private medical insurance. long-stay care insurance or permanent health insurance policies are covered only by flimsy self-regulatory "codes of conduct". There are no punitive sanctions for firms transgressing such codes. How far is Mr Brown prepared to go? And what is the shape of the system he has to

Who regulates what? I still don't understand

A you are not assisted investors do, which is a You are not alone. Few major indictment of it. In a nutshell, Mr Brown's reforms will focus mainly on the system set up under the Financial Services Act 1986. This was intended to protect investors from fraud and misselling after a rush of City scandals, including Barlow Clowes. The Act created a chief regulator, the Securities and Investments Board. The SIB delegates responsibility for different sectors of invest-

ment to three main junior regulators. These are the Personal Investment Authority sions, unit trusts, investment trusts and other investments to the public by banks, building societies, life companies and independent financial advisers), the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (fund management, including unit trusts and investment trusts) and the Securities and Futures Authority (stockbroking and portfolio management). Depending on their businesses, firms may have to be members of more than one body.

So what will happen after this?

That is the big question. The Government plans to introduce legislation, probably in the Parliament starting in November 1998, to shake up the regulators under the Financial Services Act. But it also committed itself in its manifesto to extending protection under the Act to mortgage borrowers. It will certainly come under pressure also to include other sorts of insurance, like private medical cover, long-stay care insurance and permanent health

WEEKEND MONEY

is edited by Anne Ashworth

come to those who cannot work through illness.

But why are these not covered at the moment?

The argument is that the Act only covers investments. Mortgages, for exam-ple, are technically debts, not investments, although an endowment policy taken out with the loan to repay it after 25 years is an investment under the Act.

Insurance policies taken out to protect health or income pay for potential protection and do not return premiums to policyholders at the end of a term if they have not claimed. These are not deemed to be investments. Confusingly, a number of medical and health policies are now designed to pay back something at the end and they do come under the Act. In short, the whole thing

tion if Mr Brown does not change the Act?

A Nothing very effective.

Over the past few years there has been an outcrop of "codes of conduct" introduced by the trade associations of banks, building societies and insurance companies.

Currently there are codes for selling mortgages, general insurance (motor and household), private medical insurance, critical illness cover and mortgage payment protection insurance (to cover ill or out-ofwork mortgage borrowers). These have been attacked resularly by consumer groups and the media as lacking teeth.

Shaping the future of tax-free savings

Account, Labour's as yet ill-defined solution to encourage thrift, should take clearer shape in the Budget. KPMG, the accountancy firm, expects the Chancellor to announce that he is beginning consultation on these new vehicles, promised

in the Labour manifesto. It is not clear whether ISAs would replace personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt savings accounts (Tessas). While Labour has said that it is not opposed to

believe that the Government supports only the principle of tax-free savings, not Peps and

Some cite a letter sent last November by Alistair Dar-ling, now Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a reply to a question on the future of Peps and Tessas, in which he reiterates his party's support of Peps and Tessas, but adds that Chancellors must reserve the right to review the tax treatment of savings.

It seems unlikely that Mr Brown would move to abolish Peps and Tessas with immedi-

ate effect as this would be highly disruptive. However, Jason Hollands of BESt Investment, the Pep research Tessas per se group, suggests that anyone contemplating using their £9,000 annual Pep allowance should invest before the Budget. BESt Investment publish-

> 321 0100). One easy target for the Chancellor would be the recent concession allowing windfall society shares to be transferred into a Pep at zero value, so boosting

amounts that can be

es a list of Pep best buys (0171-

each year. Before the election, Labour is known to have examined the idea of taxing demutualisation windfalls in a special levy. But most believe that the Chancellor would not make such a measure retrospective, as he would incur the wrath of the millions of recipients of these payouts.

However, any future demutualisations, including those of mutual insurers, could well be vulnerable.

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Their words and your bonds

olitical reactions are odd at the moment. Few would have guessed that interest yields on government stock would fall half a percentage point in the first formight after a Labour landslide. Investors showed little fear ahead of the election, as long-term interest rates continued a three-year stuttering downtrend. There was no reaction when Labour won a more commanding majority than the City had allowed for. The real surprise came when Gordon Brown suddenly reinforced his anti-inflation credentials by handing monetary policy over to a committee in the Bank of England. Shocks can be good for investors.

If the new regime stands a good chance of keeping inflation down at about 3 per cent, then long-term giltedged stocks yielding much above 7 per cent become fair value. At least, they are fair value for those who do not have to pay hefty income tax on the interest.

The first crack in this smooth progress appeared this week. After the Bank of England was shorn of its role as banking supervisor at 24 hours notice, the aggrieved Eddie George put a brave face on it. But there were soon reports of an irreparable rift with the Chancellor. They came from government sources who let it be known that they wished to get rid of the stern Mr George as soon as possible certainly next year, when his term of office comes up for renewal.

Sceptics noticed that the Chancellor would now be appointing six of the nine members of the new "independent" monetary committee even if Mr George stayed. This political briefing against



Steady Eddie dispelled the euphoria Mr Brown injected into the bond market. By coincidence, or so traders claim, a routine £1.5 billion auction of new longterm government debt on Thursday soon turned into a fiasco. The issue was more of an existing Treasury 8 per cent stock, repayable in the year 2021, the main long-dated gilt-edged stock for big investors. Bids covered the amount on offer only 1.3 times at the lowest accepted price, which was some way below the average. The interest yield on the stock rose 0.13 per cent on the day to 7.32 per cent. A blip perhaps, though it would be no great surprise if long yields returned to 7.5 per cent before the damage is over. The yield on the 30-year US government

bond is again pushing 7 per cent. Looking a bit further ahead, the case for sterling bonds still looks good. Whatever the machinations, Mr Brown has a vital interest in keeping inflation low until the next election. If investors believe this, prices of gilt-edged stocks yield on 10-year gilt-edged, at about 7 per cent, is still about 1.3 points higher than a similar German government bond. Some further rise in short-term inter-

est rates is likely for about a year to curb inflation. That affects gilt-edged yields. It should also keep sterling strong, encouraging foreigners to buy British bonds that yield more than their own. Private investors looking to draw income should note that high dividends are now politically incorrect and may be discouraged by tax changes. Such moves may well fail. Meantime, the advantage of shares for income investors will narrow. Several water shares,

nstead, gilt-edged could enjoy an untaxed windfall. If sterling is merged into the euro, long-term interest rates will be equalised somewhat nearer to continental than British levels. There is a small but genuine possibility of this happening in 1999, and a fair probability for 2002.

for instance, yield about 6 per cent before the "windfall" tax, which will

make it harder to raise dividends.

The virtues of locking in income by buying bonds rather than high-yield shares still depend crucially on your tax rate. Standard or higher-rate taxpayers should be wary. The main attraction is for funds in tax-free personal equity plans. These cannot plunge into giltedged, but can buy high-grade corporate bonds issued by safe names. Fortunately, these have the additional attraction of yielding about 0.5 to 0.8 per cent more than the equivalent gilt-edged.

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Gavin Lumsden with good news of the latest demutualisation

Winning double at Norwich

Torwich Union mem-bers had a double dose of good news this week. The life insurer announced a special deal for members who want to top up their allocation of free shares when the company floats on June 16. They can now apply to buy shares at 25p less than other investors will have to pay. As an additional bonus it revealed that the value of windfalls would also rise.

NU now estimates its shares will fetch between 240p and 290p in the public offer to investors, an increase on its original figure of 220p-265p. This rise boosts the handout to the average policyholder from £800 to £1,000, although it does make buying the extra shares more expensive.

Jeremy Batstone, head of esearch at NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "Members should seriously consider taking up this offer as it is an extremely attractive proposition." Speculation that it may be taken over by a bidder such as AMP, the Australian insurer, and the fact that it will enter the FT-SE 100 index in September is likely to push its share price upwards. Its business prospects are good, having a strong brand and being the country's third-largest insurer.

The company is already committed to distributing 13 billion worth of free shares to 29 million members worldwide. On top of this it hopes to sell another £2.4 billion in what will be the largest UK



Norwich fan: Peter Wisher intends to use the company's single-company Pep for his shares

share offer to combine private investors and institutions.

The company has earmarked between £800 million and £1.2 billion for members to buy, and set aside another E150 million for private investors and its employees. A total of £1.2 billion will be sold to City and overseas institutions. This week the company sent out share application forms to its members. These should be

returned by 2pm on Tuesday, June 10, whether you intend to buy additional shares or not. If you do want more shares fill in sections 2-5, stating the amount you want to spend.

and sign and date the form in section 6. The minimum NU will accept is £400 with a ceiling set at £100,000. The effect of the 25p price reduction means you can expect to pay in the region of 215p-265p. This could save you £40 if you buy

the minimum amount. Richard Harvey, NU's deputy group chief executive, has promised that all members who want to buy more shares will be able to do so. Applications for large amounts may be scaled back more than smaller applications in the event of strong demand. if you are happy to stick with your allotment of free shares you must fill in sections 2, 3 and 6 to confirm this. In section 2 you have to decide whether you want to hold the shares in the Norwich Union Share Account or receive a share certificate.

NU will only release details of the charges of its share account and dealing service. after the flotation. However, it receive dividends and vote and attend at company AGMs. The cheapest way to buy and sell the shares will be by post NU will charge 0.5 per cent

NU members will have 42 days from 16 June to transfer their free shares into the tax-free shelter of a Pep on top of the annual subscription limit of £9,000. Choosing the Norwich Union Share Account will limit you to the single-company Pen plans to launch. Opting for a share certificate allows you to transfer into the Pep of another provider. However, basic-rate taxpayers may find the costs of the Pep shelter outweigh the

The price discount means

NU members can put even more shares in a Pep than they could otherwise have done. Peter Wisher, who runs a training company in the City of London and is a committed Pep investor, has decided to do this. Mr Wisher invests the maximum £9,000 in Pens each year, using the tax shelter to provide the school fees for his two children. He has held an endowment mortgage with NU since 1980 and expects to receive £1,200 of free shares when it floats. Although he has a general Pep with Mercury Asset Management which could hold the shares, he thinks he will transfer them to NU's single company Pep and apply for an extra £3,000 of shares to use his annual allocation.

NU has a helpline on 0645 444818. Investors can obtain a prospectus and application form on 0541 578 578. It must be returned by June 5.

Colonial duo scoop £100,000

wo Colonial policyholders in the UK made more than £100,000 from selling shares in the company on the first day of trading. The policyholders, brothers, had a total of 77,000 Colonial shares under the terms of the flotation. On average, the 100.000 UK policyholders who sold on the first day of trading will get £1.30 per share. More than 28 million shares — 5 per cent of the issued capital changed hands that day.

The company allocated a minimum of 225 shares per shareholder, but Colonial claims that more than half the policyholders have more than 1,000 shares in the company — 255,000 policyholders in the UK qualify for shares.

Colonial's shares rose 9p above their listing price to £1.56 (A\$3.31) on the first day of trading. This represents an instant cyholders who were issued shares at £1.22 (A\$2.60) as part of the group's demutualisation last year. Those who sold straight New Zealand and UK stock exchanges.

away will get only EL30 per share, because of the strength of sterling. Cheques for those who sold their shares immediately will be dispatched from Australia at the end of this month. Rob Garnsworthy, managing director of Colonial in the UK, said: "Flotation is a major landmark in Colonial's 124-year history and a substantial achievement for all

owever, the 155,000 UK share-holders who chose to keep their shares will not be able to tell. immediately what they are worth, as the company is not going to be quoted on the UK stock market, although UK share. holders now hold 18 per cent of the shares. Mr. Garnsworthy said that it had ... Union have all been tipped as takeover chosen not to go for listing on the UK andidates. However, UK policyholders through separate legal processes in- benefit from the demonualisation. volved on listing on both the Australian.

He said it was offering its shareholders 24-hour recorded details of the movements in Colonial's share price. The number for checking the share price is (0345) 697502. Colonial is the second Australian life insurer to demutualise. after National Mutual of Australia. AMP, one of Australia's biggest life process of shedding its mutual status.

AMP, which was rebuffed as a pur chaser for Scottish Amicable in the UK, is believed to be poised to hid for another UK insurer. The company, which already owns London Life and Pearl, has appointed DLJ Phoenix, a mergers and acquisitions specialist, to work on the bid. NPL Friends Provident and Norwich

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+46,73%	£14,672										
+125.55%	£22,554										
+239.94%	£33,093										
	**GROWTH ** 11.88% ** 19.37% ** 46.73% ** 125.55%										

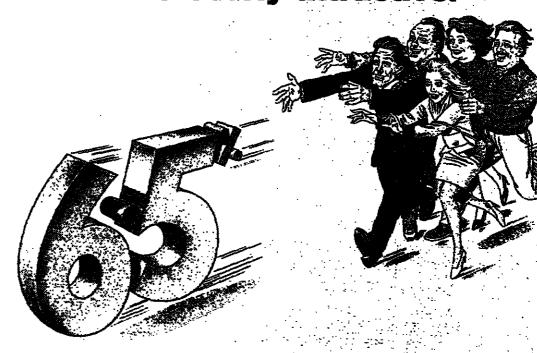
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will mean just that.

To date, little in the Chancellor's proposals for the creation of this uber-regulator suggest its structures will prohibit another scandal on the scale of the personal pensions affair, Whatever the extra disciplinary powers given to the new body, it is

unlikely that it will be able to fully curb the mightier among its charges, such as the life insurance companies. Some in this industry will pay lip service, as before, to the regulator's rules, meanwhile continuing to pur sue business in their traditional

buccaneering style.

During the 10 years since the Financial Scivices Act was passed.



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

some life companies have become adept at designing schemes that meet the criteria set by the watchdogs but fail to give good value to the consumer. At other groups, outwitting the men from the regulators seems to have become a favourite sport. This week it was reported that Prudential staff had communicated with each other by secret hand signals, while dealing with Securities and Investments Board visitors. The system needed reform. For the minitiated, the differences between

the various investor protection bodies were arcane and confusing. It is more logical that those seeking informa-tion or wishing to complain will be able to deal with a single organisation. There is, however, a danger that the publicity will give too great a comfort to individuals. They will wrongly presume that every type of financial arrangement is covered. The current system excludes anything that is not, strictly speaking, an ment. This means that you can pay a £10,000 premium for a long-

rm care policy but have no recourse to the regulator if it goes wrong. Some say these arrangements and mortgages should come under the aegis of the new organisation. But this apparently neat solution would not necessarily serve consumers' interests. Responsibility for these areas would further increase the pressure on what already threatens to be an unwieldy bureaucracy.

Peps caution

THE individual savings account, Gordon Brown's solution to the British reluctance to save long term. may eventually supplant the person-al equity plan (Pep). But the Chancel-lor should, however, remember that not every Pep holder is a well-heeled higher-rate taxpayer. Thousands are now saving in Peps to repay mortgages. Satisfactory transitional arrangements must be made for them.

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Five year performance 136.4%*. All performance to 9/5/97, launch date 1/1/92. * Source: Micropal offer to bid, gross income reinvested. The value of units and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The tax treatment of PEPs may be subject to change. Changes in exchange rates may affect EC2M 4HR. Regulated by IMRO.

esperate homebuyers are being tempted into taking out risky and expensive bridging loans to buy a new property without having first sold their existing home. A shortage of good properties, particularly in London and the South East, means buyers are under pressure to move fast when they find what they want.

The reappearance of bridging loans will revive memories of the excesses of the 1980s boom. Then borrowers committed themselves to loans on two properties but were caught out when the market turned down and they could-

not sell their original home. had seen a significant rise in for bridging loans in March and April of this year. Amounts being borrowed have also risen from about £50,000 to the high £60,000s", it said.

Many lenders no longer offer such loans, after having had their fingers badly burnt in the early 1990s. Those who do, distinguish between "closed" and "open" loans. Closed loans are short-term loans to borrowers who have exchanged contracts to sell their home but have not yet completed. A short-term Sara McConnell

says the dearth of good property has brought back

bridging loan provides the necessary funds to complete on another property before someone else does.

short-term loans

Open loans are far riskier. They involve borrowers who may not even have found a buyer for their own home taking out a loan to buy another property, without complete on their original one. But if a bridging loan seems

the only option, bear the following in mind. Even if you are offered an open bridging loan, think realistically about your chances of selling your exist-ing property. The more difficult your home is to sell, the more exposed you will be. If you have not even found a buyer you will be making high payments on a bridging loan for months on top of other

moving expense Borrow as little as possible. According to Nick Deutsch of

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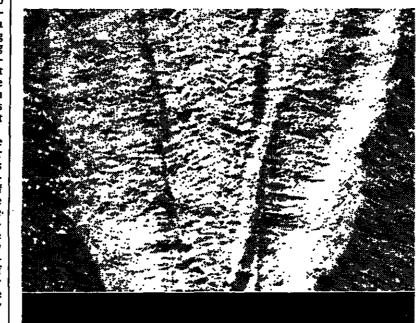
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the First Mortgage Group you are by definition stretching yourself. If you have a mortgage on your existing property, you will be paying two mortgages. It is a calculated gamble". You do not want to find yourself in negative equity on the property which you are trying to sell. This could happen if the market turns down.

Lenders will normally take a second charge on your existing property as well as using your prospective property as security, particularly if you want to borrow a large proportion of the value of the property you are buying. Remember this will reduce the have when you do sell. Lenders can insist as a condition of the loan that your solicitor sign a guarantee that the proceeds of your sale go to pay off the bridging loan.

Bridging loans are expensive. For a closed bridging loan Barclays charges 3 per cent over base which means a current rate of 9.25 per cent. An open loan costs 9.75 per cent. NatWest charges 10.5 per cent. Lloyds charges 0.95 per cent a month, an APR of 12 per cent. All the banks also charge extra arrangement and legal



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Karen Zagor assesses the current best interest rates for savers



Competition hots up for windfall cash

Savings in the UK are soaring, according to the Abbey National Savings Index. The average saver put aside £390 in the first three months of this year, compared with £310 a year ago.

This is good news because it is widely acknowledged that Britons need to save more. However, many of the savers now looking for homes for their building society windfall cash are being disappointed by the returns on offer, in spite of the increases that have followed the base

■ Abbey National is keen to advertise the 6.55 per cent on its new investor 90 account. But to get the headline rate, however, investors will need to deposit at least £200,000. Lesser amounts receive

Abbey National rates will rise by up to 0.30 per cent on June L Ambrose McGinn. Abbey's director of retail savs, said: "The rises outstrip the recent 0.25 per cent base rate rise. Our savings customers outnumber our borrowers by seven to one and they have now benefited from four increases in interest rates during the past six months." Yet Abbey's new rates are not impressive enough for the bank to feature in the best buys selection prepared by Moneyfacts, the information provider. Those with less than £250 in the Instant Access account do not get a rise.

Abbey's latest offer is the Investor 90 account, introduced last Monday. The eccount pays 4.40 per cent on amounts between £2.000 and £4.999, rising to 4.70 per cent for £5,000 to £9,999 and rising in tiers to 6.55 per cent for deposits above

Abbey says the rates will increase by at least the same amount as base rates, provided base rates rise. To attract new customers, there is also a 1 per cent bonus to anyone who invests before end July.

Rates on Abbey's Investor 30 account will rise 0.30 percentage points across the board, so savings of £1,000 to £4,999 will have a new rate of 3.35 per cent and amounts between £5,000 and £9,999 will have a rate of 3.60 per cent. The Bonus Postal Account will have a 0.25 percentge point rise across the board. Savings of £2,000 to £9,999 will have a new rate of 5.90 per cent.

There will be no changes to the Instant Saver account for amounts under £250, and the minimum balance to open an account has now been raised to £250. Larger amounts will receive 0.25 percentage points more interest, so savings between £5,000 and £9,999 will have a

new rate of 3.25 per cer Barclays says it plans to give the building societies a run for their money with its new postal savings account. This pays 4.60 per cent on deposits between £2,000 and £9,999, rising to 4.85 per cent for £10,000 to £24,999 and increasing in steps to 5.85 on deposits above £250,000. The account is instant access with no limit on deposits and up to five withdrawals by cheque a month, with a minimum withdrawal of £100.

■ Bradford & Bingley was the first to announce post-base-rate savings rises which came into effect on May 18. Its Instant Access postal account rates outstrip those offered by Barclays following a 0.80 point rise across the board to 5.60 per cent for amounts above £1,000, 5.90

£24,999, and 6.15 per cent for amounts above £25,000. The 30-day notice postal account now pays 0.65 points more than before, at 5.75 per cent on more than £1,000, 6.10 per cent for over £10,000 and 6.30 per cent for over £25,000.

Among branch accounts, Bradford & Bingley's instant access accounts now pay 0.30 points more, starting at 3.40 per cent for £500 to £4.999 and rising for larger accounts. The first Issue Tessa now pays 7 per cent, a 0.25 point rise. The 90-day notice account pays 0.30 points more. Rates have also risen for the 120day notice and children's accounts.

■ Nationwide has not yet announced its new rates, but says savings rates will rise on June I and details will be released closer to the time. "We will be maintaining our competitive edge," a spokeswom-an said. Nationwide already has one of market, paying 6.40 per cent on deposits of between £500 and £9,999, with higher rates for larger amounts.

Anyone with £5,000 to put away would

have a hard time beating this rate with an instant access account. Other good deals are offered by Cheltenham & Gloucester. which pays 6 per cent on a similar balance. Coventry Building Society. which pays 5.75 per cent on £5,000 in its First Instant oostal account. Sainsbury's Bank, with a rate of 5.75 per cent, and Buckinghamshire Building Society. which pays 5.80 per cent on deposits of £5,000 in its Chiltern Gold postal

Children's savings, 1015 section

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١	£10,000 - £49,999	6%	7.7%
Ì	£50,000 - £99,999	6.1%	7.85%
Ì	£100,000+	6.2%	8%

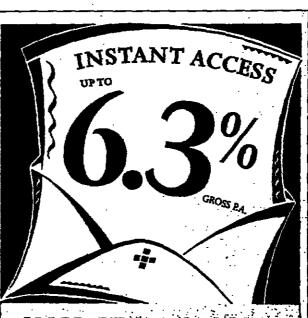
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Floats keep banking shares buoyant The retail banking sector contin-ues to surf on a giant wave of positive - investor - sentiment swollen by building society flotations

and benign economic conditions.
With the Halifax Building Society:
flotation just over a week away. City
analysts have been ingrading their
share price valuations while institutional investors have continued to pile into other bank stocks to rebalance their portfolius before the flotation. Kleinwort Benson, the investment

bank, reckons the country's biggest mortgage lender is now worth at least 660p a share, which would give it a capitalisation of £16.5 billion, repres enting 1.5 per cent of the total stock market. When Halifax first announced its intention to float in November 1994 it was valued at £10-12 billion.

Some analysis are even more bullish, valuing it at more than £17 billion, using Abbey National's prospective price carnings ratio as a guide. The



unofficial "grey market" for Halifax shares put the price as high as 700p-yesterday. Abbey's price has been artificially boosted in the past two months as institutions scrabble to increase their bank sector weightings. The addition of the Halifax will increase the bank sector's slice of the stock market to nearly 16 per cent.

stocks, Abbey has seen its share price rocket from a March low of 714.5p to a high of 96lp earlier this month. It has now drifted back slightly to 922p.

Institutions are concerned that not much Halifax stock will be available if a large proportion of customers decide to hold on to their windfalls. If lessons have been learnt from the Alliance & Leicester float, this is likely.

The bank sector as a whole has en-

joyed a tremendous bull run over the past year, rising 63 per cent compared with 16 per cent for the FT-SE Allshare index, according to Datastream, the financial data provider.

The bold move by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to hand over interest rate decisions to the Bank of England coupled with a 0.25 per cent increase in base rates gave the sector another boost. Banks are perceived to be less risky investments in a low-inflation, stable economy where the risk of bad sterling still strong, the sector is providing a haven for investors fleeing bruised manufacturers and exporters, such as British Steel, Profit warnings in other sectors -- most notably biotech this week - contrast strongly with the confident banks.

Other financial stocks, such as insurance companies, are also doing well, thanks to flotations and takeover talk. This week Norwich Union, due to float on June 16, announced a bigger than expected average payout of at least £1,500 for each of its 1.8 million qualifying members. Norwich estimates that its shares will be offered at 240p-290p, an increase on its previous forecast of 220p-265p.

The announcement helped other insurance companies, particularly Legal & General, which rose strongly throughout the week to close at 463p yesterday.

MATTHEW WALL

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Nathan Yates looks at the resurgence of Japanese trusts

Dilemma over rally in Tokyo

shunned UK and US mar-L kets for Japan have had reason to regret their choice. In contrast to an unprecedented surge in Anglo-American. markets, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index has plummeted more than 38,000 points since 1989. But does the recent rally in Japanese prices mean that at last the tide is turning?

Over the past three weeksthe Nikkei has risen more than 17 per cent, and there are some positive underlying indications. Last year Japan was the fastest growing of the G7 countries with a GDP growth of 3.7 per cent. Interest rates are below inflation at 0.5 per cent, and exporters have benefited from the yen's weakness against the dollar.

However, analysts and fund managers are divided on whether this glimmer of recovery will mature. Some believe that the deep-seated problems that caused Japan's fall from eminence in the 1980s have far from disappeared.

One of the most acute diffi-1980s was fuelled by an inflation in property prices. When the hubble burst, banks were laden with bad debts. and over-regulated and inefficient Jananese institutions have found it difficult to cope.

Last month the Nippon Credit Bank, one of the top banks in Japan: had to be bailed out by a governmentdriven rescue programme momentum builds in structurafter admitting \$11 billion in al reform, the Government had debts. The Hokkaido Takushoku Bank, Japan's



tenth largest commercial bank, was also forced into a merger. Some fear that any further pressure on Japan's financial institutions could prompt a series of collapses.

A "big bang" deregulation of the financial industry is under way, but bank shares are still regarded as poor value. Even fund managers with an upbeat view on Japan, such as Anne Marie Main of Hill Samuel, concede that restructuring in most companies is slow. The Tokyo stock exchange is

also faced with a Japanese reluctance to invest in equities. A series of false recoveries since 1991 have been inspired by demand from abroad and. have proved to be short lived. in addition, there are doubts over consumer activity, which could slump after a recent rise shrunk to between £93.49 and culties is the Japanese banking in taxes. Consumption tax, the system. The boom in the late: Japanese equivalent of VAT. was raised from 3 per cent to 5

per cent on April 1. The combination of these problems means a poor outlook for investors, according to Shahreza Yusof, who manages Abtrust Japan. "We're not really keen on Japan at the moment," he said. "There are better growth opportunities elsewhere and, every time performs an about-turn." Mr Yusof's pessimism is sup-



Heavyweight economy: Japan is bouncing back again

ported in the recent performance of Japanese unit and investment trusts. Over the past year, even the top five funds have registered negative returns of between -6.51 per cent and -16.02 per cent. A sum of £100 invested would have £83.98,

owever, expert opinion is split, and many **L** analysts are more bullish on Japan. One of these is Paul Donovan of UBS. The banks are not in as bad a shape as some say. More than half are strong enough to withstand a rise in interest rates. The Japanese consumer is alive and well, and home demand for stocks and shares is beginning to grow. Restructuring will not happen overand the recovery should continue," he said.

UBS forecast that the Nikkei index will rise to between 22,000 and 23,000 points by the end of the year, and it believes GDP growth will be buoyant at 2.1 per cent.

Some fund mana ers share this optimism. Denis Clough, manager of the Schroder Tokyo trust, said: "We are holding to the view that the recovery will not fade this time." Michael Ashbridge of Save

& Prosper is more circumspect, but also sees scope for better performance. "The market should move ahead gently," he said. BESt Investment says the pick

of Japanese funds are Martin Currie Japan, Schroder Tokyo and GT Japan, though it adds that all Japanese funds have night, but it is taking place, performed poorly of late.

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Sara McConnell reports on tardy business by pension providers

Really disgusted in Tunbridge Wells



sioners are losing their chance to secure the best annuity rates because of administrative delays, it has

Holders of personal pensions have the right to take their pension fund elsewhere to buy an annuity if another insurer is offering a better deal. Under current rules 75 per cent of the pension fund has to be used to buy an annuity. But insurers are taking so long to complete the necessary paperwork that the top annuity rates are being withdrawn before people can

lock themselves in. Independent financial advisers say it is the exception rather than the rule for insurers to complete the paperwork within the normal offer period

This has infuriated Weekend Money readers, including David Wade, of Tunbridge Wells. He writes:

"In November my wife decided to take her small private pension. The fund was with Allied Dunbar, but the best provider at the time was Norwich Union. Its offer was open for two weeks. By the time Allied Dunbar had completed the annuity transfer papers, the deadline was past and NU was now way down the list. This happened twice more, the last with an application to Legal & General whose offer stood for 18 days. Luckily when that expired its new rate was a fraction higher.

Success? Oh, no. L&G then sent the papers back because Allied Dunbar had failed to stamp them. There was apparently nothing to indicate that it should do so. Three months on my wife is just about to get some money. Meanwhile the fund has been idle.

"In her case Allied Dunbar

adviser who coped with this says he has only once in years known any company to complete the transfer paperwork within the deadline. Either these people are working in their sleep or their deadlines are too short or both.

Weekend Money repties Given the present poor reputation of insurance companies it would be tempting to sug-gest that they are deliberately delaying transfers in order to keep people's money for annuinterested in being active in the annuity market. So the delays are administrative.

Billy Burrows, of Annuity Direct, the specialist adviser, says it is like "constantly banging your head against a brick wall" dealing with insurers. Part of the problem is that the procedure for transferring. funds is unnecessarily elaborate and complex. There are three main stages:

You have to get the company with your pension fund (the pension provider) to send you a vesting or discharge form. This will tell you what your pension fund is worth and what annuity rate is on offer from the pension

If you have found a better rate elsewhere, you have to send the vesting form back to your existing pension provider with the name of the company you have chosen to pay your annuity (the annuity provider). You will normally have to send back your policy docu-ments and birth certificate as

If you have a personal pension, the forms have to be countersigned by the annuity

All this has to be done



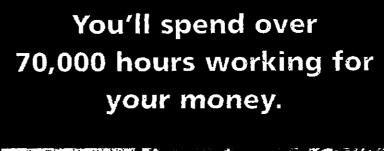
Three-month wait: David Wade could not get the papers in time

longest time most companies will hold annuity rates. Annu-ities are underpinned by gilts. the yields of which are volatile and dependent on a number of factors, including interest rates. Currently, for example, rising interest rates have led to rising gilt prices and consequently falling gilt yields.
Obviously there is a lot of scope for administrative mis-

takes and delays. According to Mr Burrows, some companies are a lot better than others. "Allied Dunbar must have been having an off-day when it dealt with your wife's case as it: is normally quite efficient.

clude Equitable Life, NPI and Standard Life," he said. At the other end of the scale, many of the Scottish companies take 14 days just to send out the vesting form. Scottish Amicable is singled out as particular-Getting the best annuity

rate is important. There is a big difference between the best and worst performers. So chase up your pension provid-er if it is being slow, and demand action. You will almost certainly have to arrange your annuity through a financial adviser as insurers generally will not deal directly with





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To buy or not to buy

Helen Pridham questions whether

it is still better. to delay buying an annuity to

get a better rate.

refirement use of the most interesting developments in recent years was the introduction of the pension fund withdrawal option in 1995. This has allowed investors with sufficient resources at retirement to take an income direct from their fund, within certain limits, instead of having to buy a

A big attraction of this option was that it meant investors were no longer forced to lock into annuity rates when they were at low levels. By delaying, there was the chance that they could time their amonly pur-

chase when rates were higher. However, there are growing doubts that annuity rates will ever return to the high levels of the past now that the Bank of England is controlling interest rates. This raises the question of whether postponing the purchase of an annuity is a good

Under pension fund withdrawal rules, an annuity purchase can be deferred as late as! age 75. But Billy Burrows of . Annuity Direct, a firm of financial advisers specialising in annuities, argues that anyone of 65 or over should think twice about delaying their annuity purchase. He says "If anything, annuity rates are likely to move lower if there is lower inflation. At the same time people are living longer so insurers will have to reduce their rates to reflect the fact that they are

paying out for longer." By delaying annuity purchase, Mr Burrows believes other benefits. "A healthy per-



Annuity winners: healthy people get better returns because those who die early subsidise those who live longer

return from an annuity because annuity rates are based on average life expectancies so those who die early subsidise those who live longer. But this effect diminishes the older you get. If you delay you forfest the annuity income you would have received in the meantime. All other things being equal, people of normal pensionable age or older are highly unlikely to be better off as a result of delaying. They need strong reasons not to buy an annuity.

Peter Quinton of the Annuity Bureau, another firm of annuity advisers, agrees that the primary aim of anyone considering the pension fund withdrawal route should not be to achieve a larger pension unless they are relatively young and do not need to take a maximum income in the drawdown period.

Without any increase in anmuity rates the only way a larger pension can be produced by delaying annuity purchase is if your fund produces a greater total return, both in terms of

capital appreciation and income than would have been produced by a conventional annuity. Simon Philip of Binder Hamlyn, the accountants, explains: To the implicit return within an annuity, currently in the region of 7 to 7.5 per cent must be added the costs of investment management, plan charges and adviser fees. This suggests a minimum return of about 10 per cent is required for income withdrawal to break even with an annuity."

To produce an annual return of this amount, it is likely that the fund will need to be invested almost entirely in equities, which commits the pensioner to a considerable level of investment risk. This is a risk that many drawing benefits will not be prepared to accept," says Mr Philip. However, for those who take early retirement in their fifties and would get lower anmuity rates, pension fund withThe returns required to match the annuity would be lower and the investment period would be longer so the possibility of outperformance would be improved. There are other believe pension fund withdrawal is also worth considering. "It is best suited to those who do

permitted income," says Mr Quinton. For example, some-one who has retired early and is still doing part-time work or has other sources of pension but would like to take the lump Mr Quinton says: "The main reason many people want to use

not need to take the maximum

income drawdown is so that money may be passed back to dependants if they die." Once you buy a conventional annuity this is not possible; your spouse may continue to receive a pension after your death but your dependants will have no access to the capital in your fund. Under income withdrawal, if you die before buying an annuity, the remaining fund can be paid to your dependants. though it will be subject to 35 per cent tax.

Another way of passing on any remaining pension fund is by opting for phased retire-ment. With this method, part of your fund is used to buy an annuity each year. You don't get the benefit of the whole tax-free lump sum when you retire but any remaining capital can be paid to dependants free of tax on your death.

Deciding on the right course of action at retirement is not easy. It is essential to take professional advice. Bill Donaldson, marketing director of Scortish Mutual, the insurer. said: "Many people nowadays have several different pensions when they reach retirement. Tying these together and working out the best route is complicated." If you opt for income drawdown you must consult your adviser regularly thereafter about the investment performance of your fund.

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New retirement trust evades the CGT trap

never been a popular tool even though they offer better long term performance than unit trusts and with profits funds and charge less in fees. This is because investors who salt their money away in a trust can face a huge capital gains tax bill when they try to convert their assets into regu-

In addition investment trusts' share prices are prone to wild fluctuations and frequently trade at a discount to net asset value. This is bad news for investors because it means the share price is failing to represent the underlying value of the trust's assets their money has bought. The average discount in the sector has widened by a third, to 12 per cent, in the past 12 months, ig the complexity and estment. This has risk of investment. This has also open off many financial advisers from recommending them as circuits. Missary Asset Manage

ment impes to change all this with the launch of its Retirement Trust next month. It fiedively combines two funds in one, both managed by MAM's pension fund managers, Investors are offered two classes of shares: growth and monthly dividend. The growth shares are designed for people saving for a lump monthly dividend shares are

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The yield will start at 4 per

cent per annum but is designed to increase every year. The idea is for investors to start switching from the first class of share to the second around the time they stop work. This conversion occurs within the trust and does not give rise to a taxable capital ains. In addition, the switch is based on the net asset. values of the shares, which avoids problems with the

ople, if you had 100 growth shares that grew to £15 have \$500; If the monthly dividend shares had a value of £13, you would be able to switch into 115 of them but the swifelt can; only happen in February and August of any

Simon Philip of Binder Hamlyn welcomed the trust's flexibility. "The big problem of investing in equities comes when you want to re-orient your capital into income and you get taxed for capital gains.

trušt. It also allows at your wealth without stopping the pension plan. If you need some money you just sell some shares."

However, Mark Dampier, investment director of Churchill Investments, the independent financial adviser, says investors can achieve the same thing with existing income and growth funds such though not designed to grow substantially, investors could remvest the fund's 3 per cent yield for extra capital growth until the time they needed to take the income.

In spite of its innovations. Retirement Trust is destined to be a fringe product for most people. Its complete reliance on the stock market makes it unsuitable as the sole retirement vehicle. Lough of Mercury Investment Trusts, says it is to designed to work alongside a company or

personal pensión. MAM expects to sell shares in the trust in the first two weeks of July. Minimum investment will be £3,000. After this, investors will be able to access it via its Pep and savings scheme.

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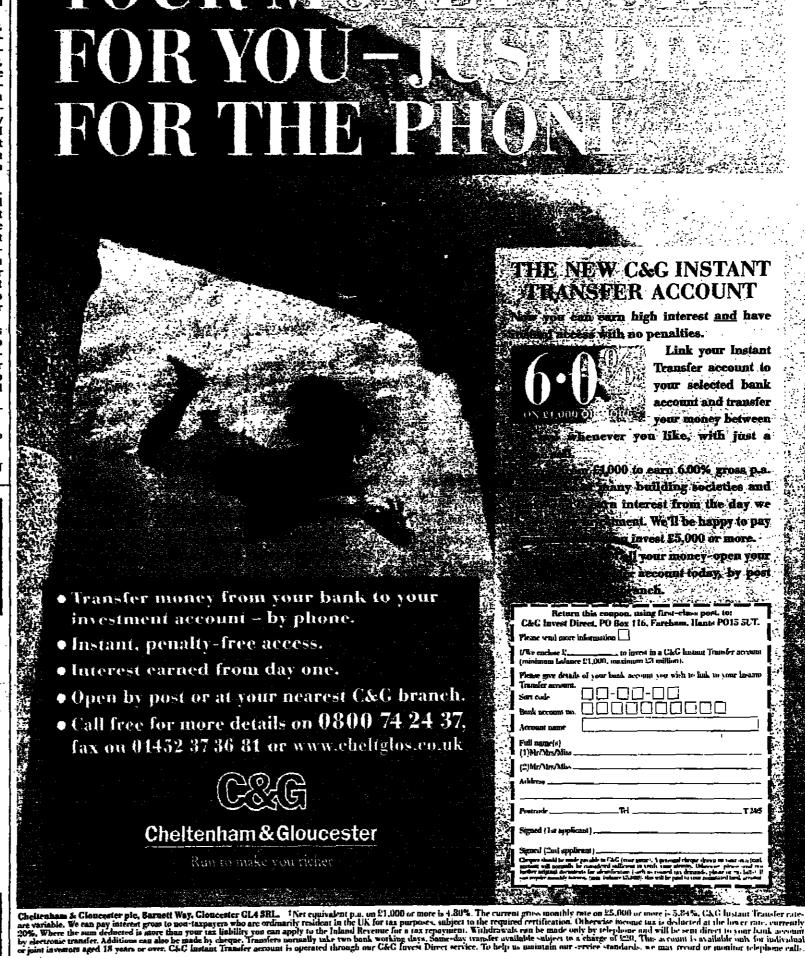
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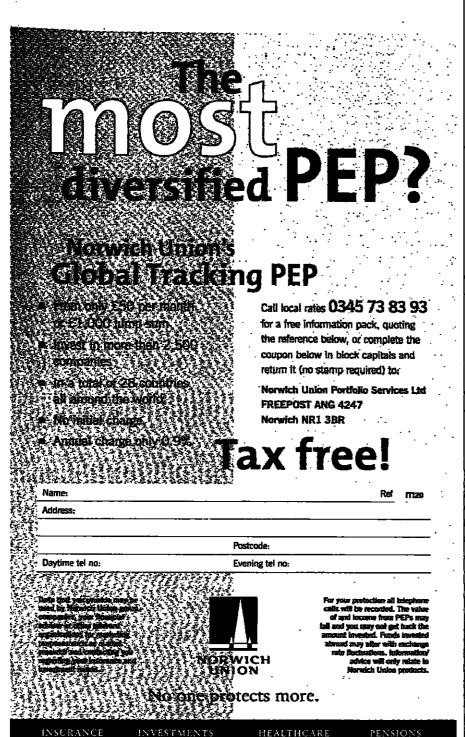


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Adam Jones on an ingenious campaign for compensation

Small claims beat system

LITIGATION against tobacco companies in the US has highlighted the relative lack of opportunity for UK plaintiffs to fight alongside each other in court. American tobacco manufacturers are defending "class actions" brought by thousands of smokers. The plaintiffs, who may not even have had to sign up to the action at its inception, are bound by one ruling and benefit from sharing the lawyers fees, which are often levied only in the event of a victory.

It's much more difficult and expensive to collaborate like

It's much more difficult and expensive to collaborate like this in UK courts. Similar cases going through the courts at the same time are sometimes grouped together, as has happened in actions involving Lloyd's of London names, but each litigant must generally start individual and costly legal action themselves. Those with determination and ingenuity, however, can overcome these limitations and find something approaching cheap, collective action. The case of the Sound Diffusion Action Group is a textbook example.

Sound Diffusion was a company that mainly leased out televisions, intercom systems and other electrical equipment to hotels and businesses. The business, based in Brighton, boosted its cash flow by selling the right to collect rental income from its long-term leases to banks. The strategy led to impressive

Then the long leases began to conspire against the company. Maintenance costs escalated and new accounting rules meant its leasing contracts suddenly seemed less lucrative. The share price collapsed. In an attempt to kindle some sort of recovery, the company raised £9.5 million through the issue of convertible preference shares, organised by Kleinwort Benson, in

The public took up a large proportion, attracted by an upbeat message in the rights issue prospectus. But eight months later, the company went into liquidation with net debts estimated at almost £90 million.

An action group was set up by some of the 11,000 shareholders. The ensuing campaign for compensation has now been deemed remarkable enough to warrant academic study. Professor Prem Sikka, the University of Essex's controversial accounting academic, is soon to present a paper on the topic. But the renewed interest does not mean the campaign had an entirely happy ending.

The action group decided early on that it would not just raise money and hire lawyers to fight the shareholders' corner. Duncan Alexander, a fultime investor who became an active member, says this was a result of having been burnt once already by the City establishment.

"We didn't really feel terribly confident about paying another group of so-called professionals to represent our case," he says.

As a result, skills were pooled from within the action group, which included insolvency experts, housewives, accountants and pensioners. In all, there were about 500 group members.

The first task was to lobby the Department of Trade and Industry for an inquiry, which was duly held. The DTI report found that the rights issue documents were misleading. It also criticised Ernst & Whinney and Arthur Young, two accounting and auditing companies that now trade as Ernst & Young, for failing to identify serious defects in



Cast of thousands: Jane and Duncan Alexander fought on when the law failed investors

Sound Diffusion's accounting

As a result of the wrong evaluation of the lease values, Sound Diffusion's balance sheet at the end of 1987, audited by Arthur Young, was so overstated that net assets shown as £17.8 million were in fact net liabilities.

The report, however, was not followed by punitive action from the DTI or other regulators. The action group members were not able to follow the example of Tunstall, a company which lost £1.9 million on the rights issue and sued Arthur Young. They could not afford to go to court individually and were otherwise stymied by the lack of a US-style

class action facility.

Legal action over alleged auditing negligence seemed costly and futile once the House of Lords made a binding ruling in another case that auditors did not owe a duty of care to investors.

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Arthur Young could be sued in its role as "reporting accountant" instead of auditor, using the Financial Services Act 1986. To avoid big legal bills, cases could be taken through the small claims court, where costs were low and the maximum payout had been raised from £300 to £1,000.

owever, there was a catch with the small claims action. It would only cover the preference shares bought by investors in the rights issue. Ordinary shares generally the bulk component of a holding, would not be covered.

Jane Alexander, Mr Alexander's sister, started an action in the small claims court that would prove to be a test case for many others, even though she was not a member of the action group. She sued for the return of the E128 plus interest spent on preference shares in the rights issue. Ernst & Young's solicitors made a last-

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minute. offer covering the whole sum, but Miss Alexander held on to get the vital court ruling that could be brandished in other cases. When, it was decided in her favour, other members were advised to follow the same course, in spite of a warning from the solicitors that she would be sued for libel.

Her brother estimates that 4,000 started actions, carefully within the E1,000 small claims maximum, raised to £3,000 after the campaign. Many had never had cause to visit a court in their lives. Sometimes, the threat of action was enough to secure a full exgratia payment, as in the case of a blind, house-bound 80-year-old man who would not have been able to appear in court.

Mr Alexander received outof-court compensation totalling £1,600, plus £1,000 interest for his own preference shares and another £1,600 for shares held through a family company. His holdings in the company amounted to £25,000 when it crashed, the great majority of which was lost.

He estimates that roughly £4 million may have been secured in compensation from what used to be Arthur Young, although further actions were halted by the six-year time limit on litigation. Ernst & Young says the undisclosed figure is much smaller.

Mr Alexander says: "The legal system exists for the very rich or the very poor. The vast majority of us who happen to be in the middle can't really use it effectively."

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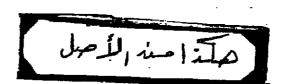
For a free quote and a free home security video ring 0800 300

PRUDENTIAL

Lines are open Sum to Spen Monday to Friday, Sum to Spin Saturday and Illiam to 2pm Sunday.

For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded.

Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote retirence PRS 092.



Tigel Griffiths, Minis ter for Consumer Af-fairs, last week reopened the debate on the great... divide that exists in British society and its financial serv-

ing to the so-called home credit" companies that their market was under review by the new Labour administra-

Each week home credit companies send out droves of commission-griven agents into the country's council and housing estates arranging exorbitant loans to the unemployed and people on low in-

This is a large, vulnerable and largely captive market for in Britain today there are four million people who cannot get loans from banks and building societies and who have to rely on the likes of Provident Financial, Cattles, S&U and London Scottish Bank to pro-vide them with cash for day-today needs.

These quoted companies are the best known weekly lenders but there are nearly 1,200 smaller operators without their economies of scale levy-ing truly frightening charges

on their paltry loans.

To make matters worse borrowers are frequently encouraged by agents on 10 per cent commission to take out a new loan when they are weeks away from finishing a first. By rolling the original loan over into the new one, the borrow-ers end up paying interest on their interest and annual percentage rates (APRs) rocket to 500 per cent, compared with 23 per cent from banks.

The APR is the standard used to compare loans. Home credit companies complain that the APR is deeply flawed and distorts the true cost of their loans. They rightly point out that banks do not have to

Easy terms -at 353%



Nowhere to turn: Stuart Lee-Haigh with daughter Lisa-Marie

include their overdraft the level of their APRs, there is charges or the cost of letters in their APR. Although a £100 bank overdraft could incur £82 charges over 26 weeks, banks can get away with publishing a 23.2 per cent APR. Whatever

no doubt that companies like Provident charge £159 for a

E100 loan over one year. Two years ago Stuart Lee-Haigh, an unemployed bus driver in Bradford, wanted to

take his wife, who was uying of cancer, on holiday. The couple's local church collected money to send them to Bridington, but Mr Lee-Haigh needed more to buy his three children meals and treats. He borrowed £150 from Provident Financia).

"I found out about Provident Financial's loans after I bought some pots and pans from one of their agents. I was too upset about Mary's health to really think about the interest rate and when I did finally take it in I thought it must be a misprint." The APR he saw was 353.9 per cent.

Over the next 20 weeks he paid £195, £45 more than the

original loan.
"I've continued to borrow money from them because i don't have anywhere else to rurn," Mr Lee-Haigh added. He is currently paying out 287.7 per cent APR on another £200 loan from Provident which he needed for more holiday expenses after he got a free place on a holiday arranged by his local pub. Over five months he will pay a total of £260 to his agent.

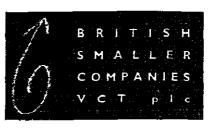
A spokesman for Provident Financial could not comment on Mr Lee-Haigh's case.

The credit lenders insist that they are providing a valuable service to their customers. John van Kuffeler, chairman of Provident Financial, said: "These are not extraordinarily high charges for a small loan. For each £100 we lend out we have to create a file, put it on the computer system, send round an agent 53 times to collect the money and have a supervisor managing the agents.

Edward Cran, the chief executive of Cattles, said: These are the people who will not repay anyone unless they come along and pick it up."

GAVIN LUMSDEN

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the regulations of the London Stock Thanger Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the Ordinary share capital of British Smaller Companies VCT plc, in issue and to be issued in connection with the Offers to be admitted to the Official List. It is emphasised that this advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or to purchase accurities. It is expected that dealings in the ordinary shares of 10p each will commence on 5 June 1997 in respect of the 1997/98 Offer.



British Smaller Companies VCT plc

PUBLIC ISSUE FOR CASH OF UP TO **10,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES** OF 10p EACH AT 100p PER SHARE

PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION

SPONSORED BY

BEESON GREGORY LIMITED

Share capital immediately following the Offers on the basis that the Offers are fully subscribed

Authorised Amount Number £1,800,000 18,000,000 in Ordinary shares of 10p each

Your application must be for a minimum of 2,000 Ordinary shares.

Applications for greater amounts must be in multiples of 1,000.

Applications for any other number or multiples of Ordinary shares

may be rejected or treated as applications for the next smaller

number of Ordinary shares that complies with the requirements of

THE INVESTMENT WILL BE IN THE INCOME TAX YEAR

1997/98. THE MAXIMUM INVESTMENT ON WHICH THE

RELIEFS ARE AVAILABLE IS £100,000 IN EACH TAX YEAR

ASSUMING NO OTHER INVESTMENT IN A VCT HAS BEEN

2. Fill in (in figures) in Box 2 the amount you are paying. This should be the number of Ordinary shares applied for in Box 1 multiplied by £1 (e.g. for 5,000 Ordinary shares pay £5,000).

3. Affix a cheque or banker's draft at Box 3 for the exact amount

*Northern Registrars Limited A/C British Smaller Companies VCT

plc" and crossed "A/C Payee only". No receipt will be issued.

Issued and to be issued fully paid Amount £1,474,370 14,743,690

Copies of the Prospectus dated 12 February 1997 which contains full details of the issuer and the securities being offered, or Mini-Prospectus relating to the Company, which was published on 12 February 1997, can be obtained by calling 0800 854 057, or during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from:

> **GUIDE TO THE APPLICATION FORM** Notes on how to complete the Application Form

ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD READ NOTES 1 TO 5 BELOW

Beeson Gregory Limited The Registry Royal Mint Court London EC3N 4EY Regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited

MADÉ IN THAT YEAR.

Yorkshire Fund Managers Ltd St Martins House 210-212 Chapletown Road Leeds L\$7 4HZ Regulated by Investment Manager

Equity Ventures Du Pont House Bristol Business Pk Bristol B\$16 IQD Regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited

Downing Corporate Finance Limited 69 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PJ Regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited

Halifax soothes deadline fears



s the Building Societies A Commission gave its final go ahead for the Halifax's June 2 conversion, the society moved to reassure members that Monday's deadline for receipt of share

registration forms is not final. To enter the initial auction of shares to institutional investors, members must post

BUILDING SOCIETY

WHEN YOUR WINDFALL COULD GROW WITH US?

If you're likely to receive a windfall bonus of free shares from your building society and haven't already invested in a General PEP for the 1997/98 tax year, you could use the

shares in addition to your normal PEP investment

allowance of £6,000 per tax year and provide a tax-free*

shelter for your windfall bonus. But only if you apply

within 42 days from the date the shares are issued. We will transfer the shares into a General PEP and sell them

on your behalf. The proceeds will be used to buy units in our UK 100 Companies Fund and will remain within the PEP. If you'd like to register for more information right away.

call us free on

0800 363488

MARKS & SPENCER

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

SHARES...

being sold, and the proceeds from the sale can be obtained for a further nine years. WHY JUST PICK UP YOUR

straight away."

on their side. Yesterday, as the **Building Societies Commis**sion gave its final go-ahead for the conversion of the society, the unofficial 'grey' market put a price of 700p on the thares. This compares with the 415p "floor" price. (If there is market fallout when dealings begin on June 2, sellers are guaranteed to receive no less than the floor price.)

The 700p estimate means that a Halifax customer with the maximum allocation of 1.381 shares would be sitting on a paper profit of £9,667. Once the Halifax becomes a bank, the Nationwide will building society. The Nationwide's commitment to its mutual status has been well-publicised, to the chagrin of those who had opened acc-

windfall. However, the Nationwide this week conceded that if the conversion enthusiasts currently attempting to win places on its board succeed in their attempt, then its mutual days might be numbered.

ounts in the hope of a

ANNE ASHWORTH AND NATHAN YATES

1. Fill in (in figures) in Box 1 the number of Ordinary Shares for which you wish to apply.

their forms today. But late respondents can take advantage of the Halifax free dealing service for 10 days after ation, and separate share auctions will be held for 20 days in all. Members who miss the deadline by a greater margin can also be sure of a windfall.

> "Our message is, if you miss the deadline there is no need to panic," Halifax said, "Monday only matters if you are

Unclaimed shares will be held

for three years in trust before

The move to reasure members follows reports this week that the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is handling the Halifax's shareholder registration process, is expecting a last-minute flood of forms at its giant registration plant near Bristol. Those among the 7.6 million beneficiaries who complained about the 31mouth delay between the announcement of the conversion plans in November 1994 and payout day may now be realising that time has been

> Planning early retirement? Starting your own business? Re-mortgaging? Divorcing?

your endowment policy.

10-11 Grosvenor Court Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HG

Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To: Valuations Dept, Surrenda-Link Ltd, FREEPOST C\$1270 10-11 Grosvenor Court, Foregate St., Chester CH1 1BR If you can answer 'yes' to these three questions, then contact us

 Is yours a with-profits policy? 2. Has the policy been in force for at least 5 years? Does it have a surrender value of at least £1,500?

Post Code

Fast CASH payments for

Surrenda-Link will value your policy and give you a decision within 24 hours. We often pay over 30% more than Life Offices. If our offer is accepted all you have to do is complete a simple deed of assignment. Our prompt service will make

So, don't delay, check the questions in the coupon then phone FREE 0800 919021 or fill our the coupon below.

SURRENDA-LINK LTD

PHONE 0800 919021

today for your FREE valuation.

Õ T245-1 Your cheque or banker's draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a branch of a bank or building society in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear the appropriate sorting code in the top right-hand corner. An Application form may be accompanied by a cheque or banker's draft drawn by someone other than the applicant, but any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "A/C Payee" in favour of

Insert your full name and permanent address in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4. Applications may only be made by persons aged 18 or over. Tax reliefs are not available to persons aged

The applicant named in Box 4 must date and sign Box 5. Individuals can only apply on their own behalf and in their own name. A nominee name should not be used as this will prejudice your entitlements for tax reliefs. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity

Commissions will be paid to authorised financial intermediaries the Offers in re Application Forms bearing their stamp and SIB or SRO membership number at a rate of 3 per cent.

Share certificates will be despatched by 10 June 1997 together with an "enduring declaration" containing details required by the Inland Revenue which must be completed by investors and returned in order to obtain income tax relief on dividends.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE BE RECEIVED BY 10.00 AM 30TH MAY

APPLICATION FORM - BRITISH SMALLER COMPANIES VCT plc

PLEASE

- Read the notes on how to complete the form. Applications must be for a minimum of 2,000 Ordinary shares. Applications for greater amounts must be in multiples of 1,000.
- Use BLOCK CAPITALS

Make your cheque or banker's draft payable to "Northern Registrars Limited A/C British Smaller Companies VCT

I apply for

ple" and crossed "A/C Payee only" and return this form so as to arrive no later than 10.00 a.m. on 30 May 1997 to Northern Registrars Limited. Please note that the application list may be closed at any time before 10.00 a.m. on 30 May 1997, provided that the Offers have been subscribed in full.

(or any smaller number of Ordinary shares for which this application is accepted) at the offer price of 100p per Ordinary share,

	payable in full on application, on the terms and conditions set out in the Application Form and the prospectus dated 12 February 1997 and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of British Smaller Companies VCT plc
2	I attach a cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable. This should be the number of Ordinary shares shown in Box 1 multiplied by £1.

	Please staple or pin your cheque or banker's draft here.	
١	Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms or title	_

\ \	Mr., Mrs., Miss., Ms or title		
s	urname		
F	Forename(s) (in full)		
P	ermanent address		
Г		Postcode	
_			
	,		

5		
	Signature	Date

Completed Application Forms should be sent by post or delivered by hand to: Northern Registrars Limited,

Penistone Road, Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield HD8 0LA so as to arrive no later than 10.00 am on 30 May 1997.

Please note, however, that the application list may be closed at any time before 10.00 am on 30 May 1997. provided that the Offers have been subscribed in full.

24 May 1997

0645 645000 0845 645000

· 0645 845000

Ordinary A/c* 1.50 1.20 0.90 10.10,000**
Investment A/c* 4.75 3.80 2.85 20.500**
Income Bond* 8.25 5.00 3.751,000-20,000**
First Opt Bonds 6.25 5.00 3.751,000-20,000**

Capital Bonds 6 8.65 5.32 3.99 100-250,000 8day 10th Ind-Linkedth 2.50 100-10,000 8day Pensans Bond S3 e 7.00 5.60 4.20 500-50,000 60day

" lins ETO E 140 g) of int law line, but acce for up to E100 " Unlimited ad "Raise gross and vibe s'examened who "0.2% net borne for E20.000+ "£100.000 j" in addition to \$1 and \$2 incide cred in lait." £500-100.000 cam higher raise. "Thered raise epply.

44th Issue Certita 5.35 Children's Bond! 6.75

Gen Ext Rate 3.51 Capital Bonds 6 6.65 5.32 3.99

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

National Savings bond rate lifted

its First Option Bond 0.25 per cent. For an investor with a holding of between £1,000 and £19,999. the gross interest rate is now 6.25 per cent gross (5 per cent net). For holdings of more than £20,000 the new rate is a comprehensive practical 6.5 per cent gross (\$.2 per cent net). The maximum investment allowed is £250,000. Tax, which is levied at 20 per cent, is deducted at source so there is no further tax liability for basic or lower-rate taxpayers. For further details call 0645 645000.

A NEW insurance scheme for classic car owners has been launched by British Motor Heritage, the classic car parts manufacturer and distributor. Features of the insurance include cover for all drivers from 17 to 75, unlimited mileage for cars more than 25 years old and competition cover while rallying or racing. Call 0345 573821 for a quote.

■ A GUIDE examining With Profit Bonds has been produced by Chartwell Investment Management. As well as assessing the products available, the guide also advises investors on what to look for.

Tational Savings has Areas covered include current increased the rate on annual bonus rate, terminal bonus history, charges, allocation rates and past performance. For a free copy call 01225 446 556.

> ■ FINANCIAL Tips for the guide to family finance. The book covers areas such as budgeting, savings and insurance, and offers advice on how best to cope with redundancy and debt. The book will be published by Hodder & Stoughton on June 19.

FOR the first time employ ers will be subject to penalities of up to £300 per form if they are late completing P60s and sending a copy to each em-ployee. KPMG Tax Advisers are warning companies to make sure that they meet the deadline of May 31, which forms is part of the new selfssment regime.

■ CONFUSED about what to do with your windfall shares? The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds has produced a free guide on how to invest windfall shares. For a copy call 0181-207 1361.

LIZANNE ROSE

PERSONAL LOANS

Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 Lombard Direct 0800 215000

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes pak
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060 Nationwide BS 0500 302010 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Nationwide BS 0500 302010	Instant Access InvestDirect Select Instant InvestDirect	Instant Postal Postal Postal	£1 £500 £5,000 £10,000	5.75 6.40 6,35 6.45	
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
First National BS 0800 558844 Irish Permanent 0800 973321 Northern Rock BS 0500 505000 Irish Permanent 0800 973321	30 Day Notice Extra Post Select 60 Extra Post	30 day p 60 day p 60 day p 60 day p	£25,000 £3,000 £10,000 £25,000	6.60 6.50 6.50 6.80	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes pak
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650 Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588 Monmouthshire BS 01633 840454	Fxd+ieeder a/c Premier+feeder	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	£8,575 £9,000 £500 £1,000	7,55 7,35 7,00 7.00	F/Yi

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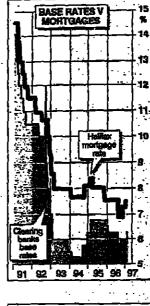
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee pa
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Ni
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Ni
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Ni

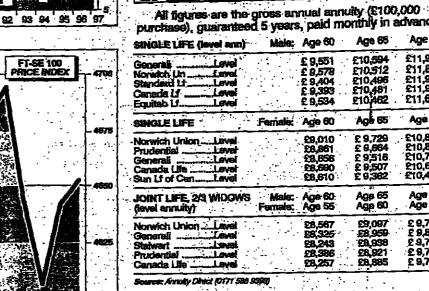
RBS Direct 0800 121125 £114.95 £101.45 No. A = APR dependent on credit rating, 8 = Withdrawais via Benk Cleaning Sye Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies it insurance not erranged, N m, C = no interest tree period, F = Fixec

11.90%H

13.90%A

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING





SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
GeneraliLevel		£ 9,551	£10,594	£11,95
Norwich Un		£ 9.578	£10,512	£11,810
Stendard LfLevel		£ 9,404	210,496	£11,900
Canada LfLevel		£ 9,393	£10,481	£11,96
quitab LfLevel		£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,67
SINGLE LIFE	emale:	Age 60	Agi: 65	Age 70
lorwich UnionLevel		29,010	€ 9,729	£10,80
rudentialLevel		€8,861	£ 9,664	£10,83
SeneraliLevel	• • •	28,656	€ 9,516	210,70
Canada LifeLever	·**	28.690	£ 9,507	210,69
Sun Lif of CanLevel		28,610	€ 9,362	£10,46
IOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
level annuity)	emale:	Age 55	Age 60	Age 6
Norwich UnionLevel		€8,567	£9,097	£ 9,76
SeneraliLevel -	-	E8 325	£8,959	£ 9,82
Statwart		28,243	28,938	€ 9,72
ProdentialLevel	<u>.</u>	£8.386	£8,921	£ 9,74
Cenada LifeLevel	<i>'</i>	28,257	28,885	£ 9,77
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 93)	(8)			

	ANN	UAL INCOME	
	Rates a	s at May 22, 1997	
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.35
	5,000	GE Financial Assur	5.80
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	5.95
	50.000	Hambro Assured	6.10
2 Years	,		
	1.000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5.000	GE Financial Assur	6.00
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.10
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.25
3 Years	,		
•	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.30
	20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.33
	50.000	GE Financial Assur	6.43
4 Years	05,000		J. (J
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85
	3.000	IT London & Edin	6.35
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.61
5 Years	50,000	GE II RA ROOL / ROOL	5. 51
2 14513	1 000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	1,000	MT London & Edin	7.00
	3,000	GE Financial Assur	6.30
	10,000	GE FINANCIAL ASSUR	0.30

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

3,000	ITT London & Edin GE Financial Assur	7.00 6.30
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-43 Early surrender. Terms vary, Monthly	4 4222. Nel rates. Income and co uncome may be available.	spital guaranteed.

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yleid	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	109.06	8.577	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11,625%	135.04	8.069	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13,000%	150.92	8.614	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13,375%	155.79	8.585	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13,000%	150.92	8.614	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12,125%	140.97	8.560	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	135.55	8.669	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	105.21	8.317	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12,000%	139.30	8.242	100.28	50,000
Hadifax	13.625%	162.63	8.378	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13,375%	155.25	8.615	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	125.63	8.534	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12,625%	146.59	8.613	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12,625%	148.64	8.494	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12,875%	149.48	8.613	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	Gross caupon	Buyin		orice_	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03	19.04063%	114.0	00 10	0.00	1.000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)		104.0		0.00	1,000
PiBS = Permanent Interest- Source: ABN AMRO Hoare I					

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	May			

228.20 296.90 249.20 305.50 193.40 220.10 160.60 196.00

1.90 3.30 2.40 3.70 5.00 6.00 0.20

- a.io - a.io

EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 80 St Mary Ave. London ECS. Eagle/Mid Utv. 799-34 412.70

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Northern Rock	4.89	to £80k	95	Fixed to 1.6.99
0800 591500 Woolwich	4.60	£20-200k	50	2.5% disc-12min
Local branch		A		plus 2.5% cshbk
Nationwide 0800 302010	. 4.39	£150-300k	90	2.6% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland .	. 1.26	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6mth,
01189 510100	4.05	CHEO DECI.	90	3% disc-6mth 3% discount to
Royal Bok of Scot	4.23	£150-250k	90	1.10.97
	•			
%				
	Interest	Loan.	Max	
Lender	rate %			
	I BAUG 76	size	- %	Notes
Building Societies			%	
Scarborough	0.25	size £30-100k	%	6.99% dsc-6mths,
Scarborough 0990 133149			%	
Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.25 0.75	£30-100k £25-150k	% 95 75	6.99%dsc-6mths, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y Flued at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Staffordshire	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99%dsc-6mths, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y Flued at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount to
Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.25 0.75	£30-100k £25-150k	% 95 75	6.99%dsc-6mths, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y Flued at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Staffordshire 01902 711525 Banks	0.25 0.75 1.23	£30-100k £25-150k to £200k	% 95 75 80	6.99% dsc-6mths, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount to 1.6.98
Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Staffordshire 01902 711525	0.25 0.75	£30-100k £25-150k	% 95 75	6.99%dsc-6mths, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y Flued at 0.75% to 31.1.98 6% discount to

no insurance

£102.49

£112.82

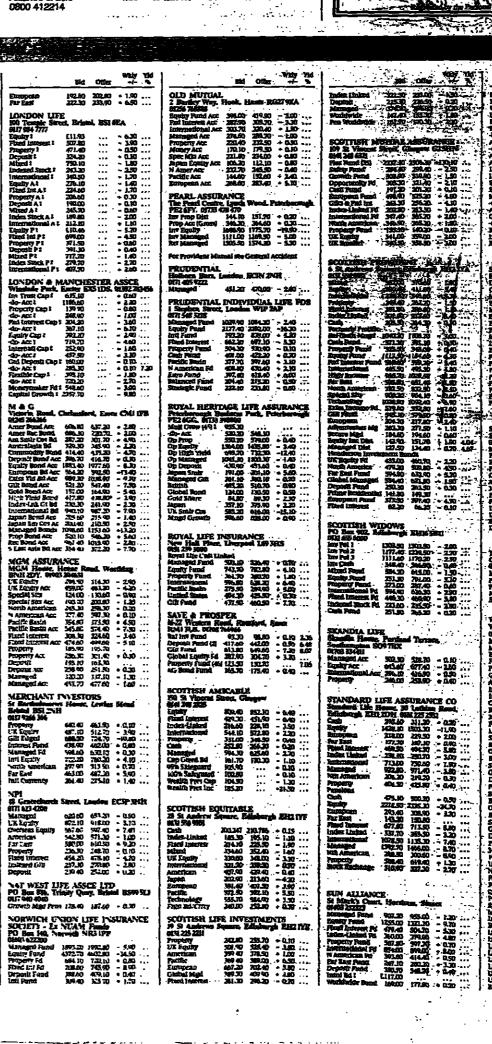
Lender	Interest rate %		Aax %	Notes
Building Soc Bristol & Wes 0800 119955	t 4.99	£15k+	95	Fixed to 1.3.98 plus 1% cashback
Newbury 01635 43676 Halifax 01422 33333	4.35 £	15-100k any	95 95	3% discount for 12 months 3%d-31.5.99,0.5% overSVR-31.5.04
Banks Bink of Ireland 01189 510100 Abbey Nation 01908 343400	1.26 £) at 4.89 t	20-145k o £125k **	95	6.50% disc 6 mits 3% disc 6 mits Fixed to 31.5.99
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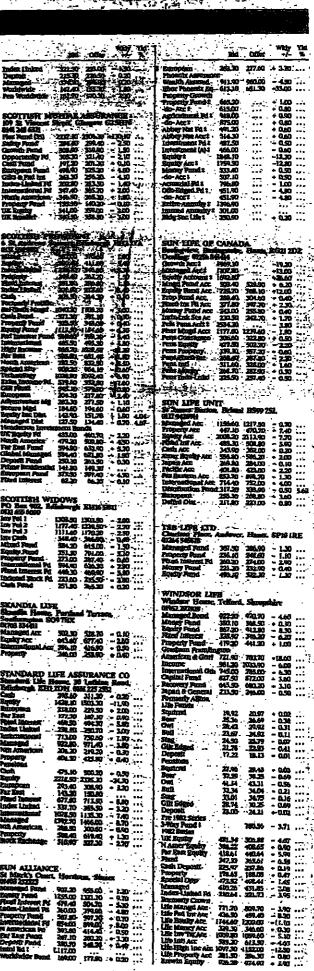
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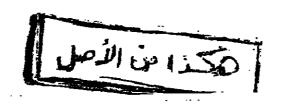
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Excellent long-term results

■ DEALINGS began in the services industry will be shares of Colonial, the Australian insurer. Colonial's 255,000 · UK policyholders will receive £1.30 for their shares (page 32). AMP, another Australian insurer is also progressing with demutalisation plans, but UK policyholders with Pearl and London Life, will not benefit. The Abbey National raised its savers rates by up

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer announced wideranging reforms of the system for investor protection. The subsidiary watchdog bodies that preside over various sections of the financial.

to 0.30 per cent (page 34).

replaced with a single organisation, a more powerful version of the Securities and Investments Board (page 31).

MINATIONAL SAVINGS cut the odds on winning any Premium Bond prize, including the £1 million jackpot to I in 19,000 from June (page 42). National Savings has raised the rate of interest on its First Option Bond by 0.25 per cent.

NORWICH UNION, which will be distributing £3. billion of free shares to's policyholders, announced that those customers who wish to buy further shares

will receive a 25p discount

■ THE Nationwide Building Society said it might reconsider its commitment to mutuality if rebel members are elected to its board.

FOLLOWING a routine inspection at the Prudential, the SIB raised four issues relating to pensions, training, selling practices and the Prudential Savings Account.

TITAN, the illegal money-making scheme, is planning to re-establish itself in the UK. It will try to contact investors on

MOTORISTS warned by the Department of Trade and Industry that anyone with an Eastern Star or SOS Insurance policy is driving uninsured.

THE Halifax Building Society received the final goahead for its conversion from the Building Societies

ON the need for holiday-makers to be properly advised on travel insurance. Walter Merricks, the Insurance Ombudsman, said: "Travellers should also realise that their policies do not cover every misfortune that befalls them."

Entitled to explanation from the Halifax

From Miss S. M. Nicholls Sir, I was interested to read the item concerning Penelope McWatters and her treatment by the Flalifax. I, too, was given

the wrong information at my local branch when my mother died on February 9, 1995. At the time of her death my mother had almost £21,000 invested with the society. I asked on three separate occasions for clarification of my share entitlement as I was the sole heir to the estate. At first they could not answer the question, but finally I was told that I had no entitlement. The

moved the money elsewhere for a better return. However, when I saw the transfer document it was clear that if I had not been given the wrong information and I had left the money with the Halifax I would have been entitled to about 600 shares.

I wrote to the Society in January complaining about this situation. By March I had not even had an acknow ledgement so I wrote to David Gilchrist. I then received a letter from the Conversion Programme Manager stating that "I did was told that I had no entitlement. The right had died with my mother. I therefore on March 17, 1997, that the reason was

because of wrong information given to me by a member of staff and that prior to this I would have met the criteria. I asked for an explanation regarding this particular complaint. To date, I have not had a reply.

It would seem that Halifax is choosing to take no responsibility for the fact that people have been deprived of their rights because of mistakes by, and misinforma-tion from, members of their staff. Yours faithfully, S. NICHOLLS

Ministry of Defence for the

whole of my working life so far, I will only receive a

pension for those years served

in the Civil Service. I will have

had the same employer for

some 44 years, but will only

receive a 32-year pension!

Were I to retire today, I would only receive a 22-year pension.

having worked for the Queen

I trust that you can further

the cause of all the

disenfranchised ex-service

personnel, perhaps by starting

a campaign on our behalf. Thanking you in hope. Yours faithfully,

for around 33 years.

H. C. LEIVERS.

Gwaunmiskin,

Beddau,

Pontypridd.

4 Cavendish Place.

27 Borough Park,

Origin of the anomalies over services pensions

From Mr H. C. Leivers Sir. Further to the letters regarding war widows pensions (Shabby treatment of service widows, May 10), may I be allowed to make the following observation? The

the sold system

is generally the

anomalies complained of (with justification) are a direct result of the 1973 Social Sec-

The Act sought the portability of pensions. It would seem that, in the drafting of this Act.

Contrary communications

Sarry fur the delay...

the powers that be forgot for failed to recognise) the fact that a lot of services personnel would not serve a "full pensionable engagement". This failure results in those who left the Services not having completed the requisite time, and who left before April 1975, in having no pension rights at all for the period served in the

effectively removes This from the Forces Pension Scheme all National Servicemen who did not become Regulars, in addition to all those who, like myself, were Regulars but did not serve the full 22 years.

This means that in my particular case, having served my country and sovereign directly via the medium of the

Classic case of

the missing 2p

Loser pays penalty

From Mrs H. Woolner From Ms D. Bradley

Sir, I have a Lloyds Bank Classic (current) account, to deducted.

during the tax year 1996-97, Lloyds deducted 26p income tax (£1.33 gross) and paid me £1.07 net.

it has withheld? Yours faithfully, H WOOLNER, Maltmans End, Maltmans Lane, for lost post

Sir, I agree entirely with Mr Sharples (letter, May 17). I am required to pay a total of £40.20 for a replacement certificate for a bonus issue certificate which was lost in the post on its way to me. I do not understand why they cannot cancel the missing certificate, whose serial number they ought to have, and issue a replacement certificate, without requiring me to pay £22.50 for an indemnity guarantee. Yours faithfully,

DIANA BRADLEY, 6 Ariel Court. Ashchurch Park Villas, London W12.

Letters to Weekend Money are welcomed, but The Times regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements given in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought over all investment matters. Letters to Weekend Money can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

which net interest is credited monthly. The monthly state-From Mr T. E. Beckett ments also show the gross Sir, May I question, via your apposite correspondence, why it takes the Bank of Scotland five days to transfer a Giro cheque interest and income tax

According to the statements,

However, the annual interest summary Lloyds has just sent me for my tax return shows income tax deducted of 24p (from £1.33 gross) and net interest paid of £1.09.

I do not mind too much about losing my 2p, but where has it gone? Does the Inspec-tor of Taxes mind losing his 2p, and what has Lloyds actually done with all the 2ps

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LOOK AT THE RETURN

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Balance	Annuai	Monthly Interest	Monthly Interest
	% Gross	% Gross	% Gross CAR
£250,000 +	6.75%	6.55%	6.75%
£100,000 +	6.70%	6.50%	6.70%
£50,000 +	6.60%	6.41%	6.60%
£25,000 +	6.55%	6.36%	6.55%
£10,000 +	6.50%	6.31%	6.50%

الزلزار	FIRST NATIONAL	

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First National Building Society Guernsey Limited, P.O. Box 458, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 6AE

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The particup where capital of First National Building Society Guernaty Limited amounts to 55 million. Letters Audited accounts are available for ince aged to this remove outputs overtigny articles strained and interest aged and output account account and articles and and output of the design School Country Limited in Guerrasty are not covered by the Osposit Process for chains under the U.K. Benlong Act 1987 Interest rates may vary and out correct at time sometimes of a design of the following the date of design and will account from the date of designance of the funds up to but not including the date of withdraws. CAR - Compounded Annual Rate is summed in the following the date of design and the funds up to but not include a well-able subject to 30 days loss of interest on funds withdraws.



from Edinburgh to Plymouth, whereas first class post takes a mere 14 hours? Incidentally, am I exceptional in preferring promptitude to a phone call being answered with the familiar Suzanne here, how may I help?" now universally adopted by banks and others, though a second call reveals that Suzanne has been replaced by Angela or William; shades of new Labour at Cabinet level?

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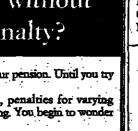
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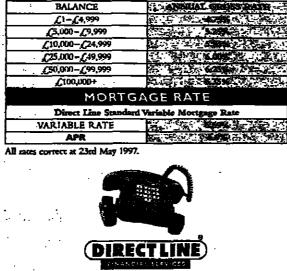
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Caroline Merrell on moves marking a special Bond anniversary

Odds get easier as Ernie reaches 40



Forty years on: Bill Haley and his Comets rock around the clock in 1957 London, the year Premium Bonds launched

aged in June. However, he is celebrating the beginning of his fifth decade with a change to the odds on winning a prize on the Premium Bonds. From next month, the odds will shorten to 1 in 19,000, and will be fixed.

Previously, the chances of winning varied on a monthby-month basis according to the number of people holding Premium Bonds. The more bonds in issue, the longer the odds on winning. In May, the odds of winning were about I in 23,000. Next month, with the shortened odds in place, National Savings will pay out 430,000 tax-free prizes worth £32 million. Among the prizes will be one £1 million prize, five £100,000 prizes, eight £50,000 prizes and 19 prizes worth £25,000 each.

Premium Bonds look particularly attractive at the moment because inflation rates and interest rates are low, which means that even if Premium Bond savers do not win, their investment will not be eroded too swiftly by infla-

Low interest rates mean that Premium Bond savers are in fact only gambling the interest they would have earned on their investments. In its 40year history, National Savings Premium Bonds have paid out more than 57 million prizes worth £3.5 billion in total.

Those looking forward to setting a windfall from one of the forthcoming building society conversions could considerably shorten the odds of winning by investing all their payout in bonds. Those who invest £1,000, a typical wind-

fall, in Premium Bonds have a 1 in 20 chance of winning any prize. The odds on winning a prize in the Premium Bond draw compare well with chances of winning the National Lottery jackpot, where the odds are I in 14 million.

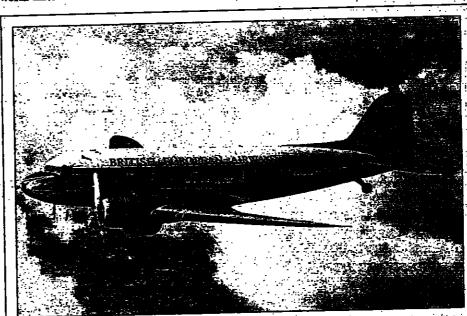
However, the maximum that can be won through the lottery is much greater than the maximum £1 million offered by National Savings. The biggest jackpot prize reached nearly £23 million. The chances of winning other, smaller, prizes in the lottery are about 1 in 54

National Savings claims that since the introduction of the lottery more than two years ago, interest in all forms of low-risk gambling has increased, which means that interest in Premium Bonds has also increased dramatical-

celebrations, National Savings compared the costs of splashing out in 1957 with the costs of splashing out today (see

f you are lucky enough to win a prize in a Premium Bond draw, then National Savings will write to confirm the win. It is, therefore, important that National Savings is informed of any change of address, by either completing the holder's card issued at the same time as the bonds, or by writing directly to Premium Bonds, National Savings, FY3

A list of winning numbers is available at main post offices two months after each draw. together with a complete list of unclaimed prizes every



Paris-bound for just £8 return

winner could celebrate with a double room and a twocourse dinner at The Savoy day the same deal would cost £309. A return flight from London to Paris, 40 years ago would have cost £8, today a return flight with British Airways would cost £95. A bottle of champagne in 1957 would have cost £1.63, today it costs £19.99. A four bedroomed semi-detached house in Kensington would have cost £15,000 in 1957, today it costs £750,000.

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Autif shows the way with windfalls

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) has produced a guide for investors receiving free building society

million people who are due to benefit from the demutualisations of Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Norwich Union, gives some advice about what to do with the windfall shares. It also lists those companies that are offering to exchange windfall shares for units in a general personal equity plan.

The guide points out that the charges and the details of the different share-exchange schemes vary, and advises the public to make sure that they shop around to ensure that they find the most suitable

The companies offering share-exchange schemes ioclude Schroder, Virgin Direct and HSBC. Philip Warland. Autif's director-general, said This is a great opportunity for investors new to the stock market to tkae that all important first step on to the equity ladder. The key to success is in being clear in your objectives. realistic about your expecta-tions and confident."

The guide is free to members of the public Those wishing to receive a copy of the guide can write to the Unit Trust Information Service, 65 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TD. The telephone number is 0181 207 1361.

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RUGBY UNION: McGEECHAN WARNS OF NEED FOR DISCIPLINE IN OPENING TOUR MATCH

Lions must learn to tame their eagerness

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN PORT ELIZABETH

THE British Isles party dip their toes into the often stormy waters of South African rugby for the first time in 17 years here today. The last time that they were in Port Elizabeth, the venue was the Boet Erasmus stadium, and it is symptomatic of the changes that have taken place in the sport since then that one of the country's international grounds has been renamed Telkom Park under a sponsorship agreement bringing much needed cash to a declin-

ing provincial union. New names, new faces -Eastern Province (or the 'Mighty Elephants", as they

N Jentons (Fontypridd and Wales); I Evans (Llanell and Wales), W Greenwood (Leicester), J Guscott (Bath and England), N Beal (Northampton and England), R Howley (Cardiff and Wales): T Smith (Watsonians and Scotland), R Howley (Cardiff and Wales): T Smith (Watsonians and Scotland), K Wood (Harlequins and Instand), J Leonard (Harlequins and England), captain), L Delleglio (Wasps and England), G Welt (Newcastle and Scotland), S Shaw (Bristoi and England), R Hill (Saracens and England), S Quinnell (Richmond and Wales).

are known) have brought in a wave of newcomers against a Lions side that suffered further disruption yesterday with the withdrawal of Scott Gibbs and John Bentley from the back division. Medical opinion on Thursday was that bothwould be fit, but, at this early stage of the tour, the management sees no need to risk the

exacerbation of injuries. Will Greenwood will play at centre in a pairing with Jeremy Guscott that many England supporters would have enjoyed watching during the domestic season. I would far rather prepare a defence against Will Carling and Phil de Glanville than against an Ashton, the Ireland coach, said earlier this year in

acknowledgement of the potential for the unexpected that has earned both men a place in South Africa.

leuan Evans will bring the experience of 71 caps to the wing in place of Bentley, whose injured toe, like Gibbs's bruised thigh, should have cleared up in time for him to play against Border next Wednesday. However, the changes mean, inevitably, that the threequarters may take time to settle into their stride, while the back row, deprived of a queasy Tim Rodber 24 hours earlier, will also have to concentrate on its work as a

The match XV worked for no more than an hour in the Durban heat before the short flight here, pausing only to celebrate Richard Hill's 24th birthday by hurling him into the hotel swimming pool. However, there the fun ends. Today marks the start of serious business - that of representing, with distinction, professional rugby in the northern hemisphere; of upholding a proud amateur tradition; and of offering a modicum of help to a South African development programme which, its critics fear, has not been as positive as it might have been.

The match today had originally been scheduled for the Adcock Stadium in the Korften township, some 20 minutes from the city centre. For logistical and financial reasons, it was switched to the Boet Erasmus, which can hold some 35,000 people, but the 14 players who are not required -- among them Martin Johnson, the tour captain - will

conduct a series of clinics with youngsters from the underprivileged areas this morning. The Lions tradition, of which this party is as proud as cludes the record of not having lost to a South African provin-



Greenwood trains yesterday after learning of his call-up

cial team since the 14-6 defeat by Transvaal, the tenth match of the 1968 tour. The 1974 touring party proved invinci-ble, while that of 1980 lost three of the four internationals, but these Lions, divided from the past not only by politics but also by professionalism, are intent on making their own history.

That they face a demanding baptism is not in doubt. though their own lack of familiarity will be matched by opponents who have not played together as a team before. The South Africa manif Kobus Wiese and Hennie le and their success will be vital Roux, the guests from

Gauteng, have recovered form and fitness, and the abrasive nature of the game will offer the Lions a useful yardstick.

The danger of the first game is that you get too excited about it," Ian Mc-Geechan, the coach, said. "Since they knew they were in the team, some of our players have been very keyed up and you have to keep a level of

discipline and patience."

The forwards, too, will have to preserve the safety of Robert Howley and Gregor Townsend, their half backs. They are two of the relatively as the trek begins

England to gamble on injured forwards

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN BUENOS AIRES

WHILE England, as a whole, have hit the ground running in Argentina. Kevin Yates has not. Yates, the Bath prop. limped off the flight from Cordoba having twisted his ankle in a pothole.

That he has been the butt of jokes by less than sympathetic colleagues is not unexpected, but his injury, and John Mallett's recurring back problem, underline the real concerns that the England management has about the fitness and relative inexperience of all six front-row

The Bath pair have been chosen in the team to play Buenos Aires today, one which shows eight changes from that successful in Cordoba, but, given that the Buenos Aires pack, which features seven past or present Argentine internationals — the team boasts 14 in all - will be intimidating and technically proficient, the prospect of fielding two less than fully fit props must be a worry for Jack Rowell, the coach.

There are six changes in the pack from that which started the match on Wednesday, but Ben Clarke, who, according to Mike Slemen, the assistant coach, is back to his "bubbling best", stays at blind-side

with Tony Diprose at No 8. Andy Gomarsall and Alex King take over at half back, but each must know that, barring injury or a call to join the Lions, Mike Catt and Kyran Bracken will play against Argentina next weekend, as will today's threequarters and Jim Mallinder, the full back.

"In all our selectorial thoughts, we have been looking at next Saturday and working back from there," Rowell said. "Buenos Aires will be another challenging game."

BUENOS AIRES: D Cuesta Salvat O Bartollucci, J Orengo, E Smorre, T Solari, M Caly, N Fernandez Mirandez M Urbano, J-J Angellfo, F Alberdi, P Sporfeder. G Ugartemendia, I Fernandez Lobbe, C Viel, P Cemerfricko.
ENGLAND XV: J Mailinder (Sale): J
Steightholme (Bath). P de Glenwille (Bath).
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Adebeyo (Bath): A King (Wasps). A
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Codorff (Leicester). J Mailint (Bath). B

Pundits open book on Taylor's perilous form

WHAT is sport, without the relish of disaster? Nobody could survive a fortnight in sport if he or she did not savour the vinegar of defeat as well as the champagne of victory. So, while this column offers a bottle of its house champagne, ambrosial Nico-las Feuillatte, to readers who correctly predict the number of Test match wickets to be taken by Shane Warne in the coming Ashes series - 1 did feel so sorry for the Waugh brothers on Thursday - so the Sunday Age, of Melbourne, has been asking various notables to predict the summer's Test match batting average of Australia's slightly beleaguered captain, Mark

Taylor. Mark Ray, their cricket writer, gives 24; Rodney Hogg, the former Australia fast bowler, gives a more generous 34, but adds that he would not have picked Taylor; Cheryl Kernot, the leader of the Australian Democrats and a qualified umpire, suggests 25. Linda Pearce, another sportswriter, says that Taylor will play a single Test, make six and 13, and so finish with an average of 9.5.

Meanwhile, more entries are welcomed at this address for the Shane Warne competition: closing date comes with the first ball that fizzes from Warne's much-discussed and much-operated-upon hand.

☐ Greetings from the column to Tony Torres, the first onearmed footballer to play in the Ecuador first division. He is centre forward for Deportivo Quevedo, and is

now banging them in on a regular hasis. Torres turned professional three years ago: he had his right arm ampu-tated when he had cancer at the age of four. "My craziest memory," he said, "came when a referee gave a free kick against me for hands."

Power failure

Now I know why Raymond Illingworth ultimately failed when he combined the roles of manager and chairman of England's cricket selectors. He did not have enough personal power - "If I could go back three years, yes. would take the job on. But 1 would have done the odd thing differently. People might laugh, but I would have ensured that I was more of a supremo ... my mistake or occasions was to try to be fair to everyone. I let them have

SIMON BARNES



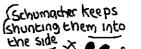
On Saturday

their say and went with the flow, although I had the contractual right of veto. I should have used it more often "This is in a new postscript to his now-paperbacked book

One-Man Committee, kindly brought to my attention - my days of reading Illingworth's ghosted autobiographies are long gone — by Wisden Cricket Monthly.

Fast forward

Another centre forward story: the player in question being Michael Schumacher. who also drives motorcars. Schumacher, who lives near Lake Geneva, led the line for Aubone against Genolier-Bengins in the Swiss third division. Schumacher played just the first half and his team lost 6-1. "It's difficult to judge his ability." Michael von Tobler, the coach, said. "He's had just three practices and doesn't know the other players very well yet." Schumacher had been approached to make a contribution to team finances — they need a new strip - but said that he wanted to play.





Merry-go-rounds

Have you ever come to the end of a round of golf and felt, wow, that was just so much fun. I would like to do it all over again? Nor have I - but such a prospect is being enthusiastically embraced by a group of four Brits, who intend to set a world record of rounds of golf played in 24 hours. James Male, Simon Gard. Tom Hawkins and Bruce Hopkins aim to play 17 rounds at Akureyri, in Iceland, when the midnight sun burns bright at the end of June, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Field of feuds

As Rupert Murdoch prepares to purchase one of the most glamorous franchises in baseball, LA Dodgers, so connoisseurs of feuds, rivalries and personality clashes are licking their lips about the likelihood of the Dodgers taking on Atlanta Braves in the play-

For the Braves are owned by Ted Turner, a man not without his own dreams of global media ownership. The two have duelled in sport before and have exchanged broadsides in the theatre of ocean racing. Baseball offers a grand new field of rivalry.

It is nice to know that one's proprietor agrees that old lines are the best. Murdoch once quoted Disraeli at Turner: "Honourable sir, it is true that I am a low, mean snake. But you, sir, could walk beneath me wearing a top

Firing lines

This column is never averse to a spot of verse, and I present this objet trouvé from the latest Bodyline Books catalogue of cricketing literature (available from 150a Harbord St. London, SWò òPH). Verse by "Giglamps", originally published in the Morning Post in 1945.

The men who bowl for England

Are sometimes known to tire. And under-pitch and over-toss And lack their early fire. But those who write for England

Go on from strength to strength: They send us for the "close of

Ten thousand words blessed day. And never lose their length.

BADMINTON

Susanti triumphs in vain

SUSI SUSANTI, the most successful player of the professional era, recorded a startling 6-11, 11-6, 11-0 victory over Ye Zhaoying, the women's world singles champion, at the world championships in Glasgow yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). However, she could not prevent China, the title-holders, from reaching the final of the Sudirman Cup with a 3-2 victory over Indonesia, the former holders.

Indonesia's best hopes of upsetting the champions disappeared in the opening en-counter, in which Limpele Flandy and Minarii Timur failed to beat Liu Yong and Ge Fei, the All England mixed doubles champions. The men's singles and women's doubles were always likely to go China's way, and Indonesia's traditional superiority in men's doubles availed them

Later, England caused a surprise by omitting Simon Archer from the men's doubles in the match against RUGBY LEAGUE: DEFEAT LEAVES AILING CHAMPIONS TRAILING IN WAKE OF RUNAWAY LEADERS

Injuries weaken St Helens challenge

THREE weeks after St Helens auccessfully retained the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, the de-fence of their Stones Super League championship looks to be beyond them. Entering the second half of the season, any challenge to Bradford Bulls, the runaway leaders, appears more likely to come from Leeds Rhinos, London Bron-cos or even the resurgent Wigan Warriors.

Unless St Helens can staunch the flow of five dropped points in their past three outings at home when they meet Wigan on Monday night, their title will pass to new hands.

Injuries and suspensions have revealed a soft underbelly to the champions. The absence of four of their international personnel was felt keenly on Thursday night in the 39-26 defeat away to Salford Reds Against purposeful opponents, intent on revenge after two earlier defeats by St Helens, the champions fell behind 22-4, fought their way back to level terms and then crumbled again.

It will be another two to

Newlove and Alan Hunte, the centres, have fully recovered from torn hamstrings. Chris Joynt is struggling still with a shoulder injury and Tommy Martyn, who requires a second knee reconstruction operation in the past two years. will play no further part this

season.

In addition, Andy Northey begins a four-match suspension for a reckless challenge on Martin Offiah, of London, and, while Ian Pickavance is available for the Wigan match, the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary committee might not take a sympathetic view next week when it discusses his retaliatory punch on Paul Forber, for which he was sent off on Thursday. Forber was placed on report by Russell Smith, the referee, for a high

With Bobbie Goulding put in the sin bin for a professional foul, St Helens finished the game at Salford with 11 players. Goulding's absence was costly. He had crafted the comeback to draw level and his kicks to the corners produced tries for Danny Arnold and Andy Haigh. Without him, St Helens were not quite

Paul Evans, the Paris Saint-Germain centre, will miss the home game against London on Monday and another away to Wigan next Friday. His twomatch suspension and £100 fine for a high tackle followed a third appearance before the RFL disciplinary committee this season.

Graeme West, the Wigan coach until his dismissal three months ago, has made his first signing since taking over this



Goulding: influence

struggling at the bottom of the first division, with the acquision of Kevin Ellis, the former Wales and Warrington

scrum half. West, appointed after the dismissal of Doug Laughton, said: "This was the chance I'd been waiting for. After a short time out of the game, I was starting to get itchy feet and the desire was back. I know we're in a tough spot, but the challenge appeals to me."

In a swipe at the Wigan directors, West added: "Here, will control which players come and go, which will give me the chance to create my own team, instead of relying on having players bought for

The amateur season reaches its climax today at the Willows, Salford, where an original 138-team entry has been whittled down to Dudley Hill. from Bradford, and Ellenborough Rangers, the Cumbria county champions and beaten finalists last year, who meet in the final of the BNFL National

Cup.
The players of Ellenborough, a small fishing village near Maryport, are looking

having won the Cumberland League first division and the Cumbria Cup. In contrast. Dudley Hill have enjoyed a memorable season, but have nothing to show for it, thus far. They finished behind West Hull and Woolston in the National Conference League premier division and beat the professionals of York to reach the fourth round of the Chall-

Carlisle. Although Dudley Hill are slight favourites, they have not won the National League since 1984. Ellenborough avenged their final defeat by Skirlaugh last year by beating them in the semi-finals. They have also accounted for three other conference sides - Hull Dockers, Shaw Cross and Wigan St Patrick's - in reaching the final for a second year.

enge Cup, where they lost to

In the under-18 national play-off final, West Hull, the National League premier divi-sion champions, Yorkshire Cup-winners and present holders, must beat Leigh East to secure an unprecedented treble. Oulton Rangers and Stanningley meet at under-16

ROWING

Eton prepare to meet strong challengers

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE National Schools Regatta enters its second halfcentury bursting at the seams. Another record entry of 2,825 competitors - 2,129 boys and 696 girls — from 115 schools will attract more spectators this weekend at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, than any other rowing event, domestic or international.

The popularity creates problems. In 1990, the event was expanded to two days and, with no prospect of expanding to three - examinations are looming — the programme this year has 232 multi-lane races in a 22-hour pro-gramme, in spite of dropping one event.

Fourteen of the 51 events have championship status, the blue riband event being the Queen Mother's Cup for championship boys eights. The event, which has been won by only six schools in its 25-year history, appears more open than usual this year.

Eton, the winners for the past three years and for a remarkable 12 times in total. started the season slowly, but have picked up pace. St Edward's, the champions in 1993. won the Schools' Head in March, when they were followed home by St Paul's, Abingdon, and Hampton, and all are fast.

Radley, who last won the championship in 1981, beat their leading rivals, directly or on times, at the Poplar and Wallingford regattas, but have subsequently lost their stroke to iliness. Shrewsbury. the only other previous winners in the line-up, were sixth in the Schools' Head, just ahead of King's. Chester.

Kingston Grammar have high hopes for their girls' crew. Alongside Lady Eleanor Holles, the holders, they look the fastest crew in the champ-

ionship girls eights. The recent national push to promote sculling at junior level is reflected in entries of 30 and 29 in the championship boys' and girls' sculls events. Many involved are on the road to junior Great Britain selection this year.

Now bring on The Springboks, Tiger Woods, plus Italy, France and Brazil at Le Tournoi. It's all live on To see Britain v The World all summer long

حكذا من الاصل

Effectual can build on Ripon success

HAYDOCK PARK BBCI

2.00: Bee Health Boy relishes soft ground but is best over an extra furlong. Broadstairs Beauty has been most consistent this season without winning and First Maite is preferred, having won well recently at Beverley. The well-drawn Lord High Admiral loves this track.

2.30: A race-fit Tomba just beat Man Howa when he was making his seasonal reappearance here 19 days ago. Despite winning since, Brian Meehan's topweight may struggle against Man Howa.



IN TELEVISION

who relishes soft ground and is weighted to gain revenge.
3.00: Out Of Sight is well weighted judged on his York success but prefers faster ground, according to his trainer. The ante-post gamble has centred on Alezal, who finished close to Sekari and Rashik as a two-year-old before winning by 18 lengths at Hamilton. The Willie Jarvistrained runner should go close, but I just prefer Amyas. who impressed when winning a York nursery last year and showed improved form to win a decent Sandown handicap on his reappearance.



The versatile Inchcailloch, right, returns to Kempton today, the scene of his Queen's Prize triumph at Easter

KEMPTON PARK

CHANNEL 4 3.05: David Elsworth rates Chips as potential Royal Ascot material and, after winning at Salisbury, the progressive Common Grounds colt just failed to give 10lb to Banningham Blade at Windsor 12 days ago. Today's extra furlong will suit and he can resume the winning trail from a plum draw. Another Fantasy was outclassed at Newbury last week and Timekeeper

3.35: Among Men created a favourable impression when defeating The Prince in a good Newmarket maiden. The form of Amid Albadu's handicap success over Peartree House has been boosted by the subsequent success of the runnerup, but Green Card makes considerable appeal. After winning by four lengths at Ripon, he was unlucky when hampered in the 2,000 Guineas and should have finished closer. Sean Woods believes this Green Dancer colt is top

4.05: Greenback, a game chaser, has not raced on the Flat since his four-year-old days and could be thrown in-Bolivar is well treated, but disappointed on his comeback. Sea Freedom and Incheailloch look dangers.

4.35: Effectual is beginning to live up to his name, having won at Ripon last Sunday. Gay Kelleway's runner reappears off a 51b higher mark and can follow up. Arctiid and Tykeyvor, the Bessborough Stakes winner, need further.

DONCASTER

CHANNEL 4

3.20: With Roger Charlton's stable firing on all cylinders. Waypoint makes considerable appeal. The four-year-old put up her best effort when finishng third to Tregaron in the Victoria Cup at Ascot but has been left on the same handicap mark. The trip is on the sharp side for Mawingo, who reappears, and proven seven-furlong performers such as Highborn and Almuhimm represent a threat.

FORM FOCUS

pleasing reappearance behind Whitechapel at Newbury and looks to have an excellent chance of winning here. This consistent gelding won a 22-runner handicap at York last autumn off a 21b higher mark. Despite being outclassed at York ten days ago, Temptress still ran well and she will appreciate the drop in class and return to this distance.

4.20: Nothing can be ruled out with confidence, but I shall remain loyal to Apprehenion, who was not disgraced in the Dante Stakes. David Loder's Derby hope has come on for that run but will need to be at his sharpest to beat these rivals. The form of Lawahik's

Nap: EFFECTUAL (4.35 Kempton Park) Next best: Voila Premiere (3.50 Doncaster)

five-length Ripon success is working out well, while John Dunlop holds the progressive Lord Eurolink in high regard. Falak, second to Royal Amaretto, and Stowaway are far from out of it.

4.50: The ground would not want to dry out too much for Turnpole but this recent York winner is the choice. Still lightly raced, the six-year-olddug deep to repel Opaque at the Knavesmire and will not be inconvenienced by a return to two miles. Go Britannia is unproven over this trip and Shirley Sue is a bigger threat.

RICHARD EVANS

KEMPTON PARK 3.05 NEW ENGLAND CONDITIONS STAKES

3.35 AMONG MEN (nap) 2.05 Fatai Baraan 4.05 Sea Freedom

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Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3,35 AMONG MEN (nap).

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234	(3)	04600-	OSOMERITAL 219 (F.G) 14 9 Cornell, D Hayer Jones 3-9-5 G Faulines (5)	- 1
2.5	·4j	20-000	WHITE EMR 10 (6.5) (Then Beat Recity) & Mester 4-3-2 W J O'Conner	•
3.0	17)	25-001	LONGWOX LAD 21 (Q.F.) 'Alm !! 'Aradzan, # Mor 4-3-3 Date O'Nell	
	-21	C-20001	SO BITTER D.T. (CO.F. G. St. "E PS/Ward. 1 Brades 7-9-1 W Report	- (
. 12	3:	015-0	USISHAKEN 7 (S) (N. 1900): 1 Faction: 3-9 G . N. Vistey	
	132)	315000	MENSTAL MAX 91 (D.S.G.) is Courty, J.Col. for 4-6-13. D.O.Donohos (G)	
210	12	007-35	MESTER JOLSON (D.BEJE S.S) 15 Fryanzi R Hodge: 5-8-12 R Cochrone	9
2.1	171	611626	SALLY SLADE SE (CBF F.G.S) (F.Cyper Cloper 5-3-11 . M.Remmer	-
212	`5 1	1501-5	MATURAL KEY 50 (O.F.G.) IN COOMING PRODUCTES 4-3-9 S DROWNE	- 1
213	45	0-5522	WELLOW DALE 2 ICOLEFF.St (V. aprior) 5 Protects 4-3-5 P.P. Margary (5)	- 1
. 4	:341	-02005	SYDRY DANKE 12 (C North north 3-7-10) Matter Dayer (3)	1
98111	MS 3.3	So bores	et 11-2 generale Let 6-1 William Day 7-1 Mater Jelson 19-1 Mater Sally 9	-11

1996 SCHARWICKST 4-3-2 F Hyprox 15-1-1-3 Dow 1 to

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 Desert Prince.

2.20 RACING SCHOOLS FURNITURE FACTORS APPRENTICE

Long measuring. 201-2019 4.

BETTEVE 19 hearmount 6-1 Submood 5-11 On Sub Me 8-1 dock The East Preparal Attinsor's Name 19-1 Schools below builded 14-1 Born A Long Seed Half 18-1 offers.

1996, JOHENE THE JOKER Sees Please (3-1, 2 Logs, 15 tor

والمناز والمنافعة والمناز والمناز والمنازي والمنازي والمناز والمناز والمنازي والمنازي والمنازي والمنازية

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) DRAW, 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

HANDICAP (22,684 7f) (15 runners)

3,50 Augustan

5.20 Millpet

4.20 Apprehension 4.50 Etterby Park

Central Park, 4-1 Timetreper, 3-2 Chaps. 5-1 Another Fantesy, 13-2 Smooth Saffing, Fiven clock 1996 STATESMAN 9-0 R Hughes (11-2) M Chaoson 7 can

FORM FOCUS

dibons race at Windsor (St. 300). SM00TH	n maden at Brighton (51 21.3yd, good
LBNG (34) 2nd of 9 to Prince Foley of nonce	ANOTHER FANTASY best Indian Silve
at Lingfield (St. 900d) TBNE/CEPPER beat Pro	snaden here (51 good) on perulbimale
21 in 8-number manden at Cartiste (St. 900d).	Selection: CHIPS

3.35 CRAWLEY V (Listed race: 3-Y-O: £13,810: 1m) (7 runners)

401	(2)		ANNO ALBADU 36 (D.F.S) (H. 21-1/2/10/20) J. Doming 8-12 R. Hughes	
402	(5)	1	AMENIG MEN 20 (D,G) (M Tabor) M Stoute 6-12	88
403	គោ	0-10	GREEN CARD 21 (D.F) (7 Chu) S Woods 8-12	88
404	Th.	5242-0	MIGRASINE 28 (F) (M Stesson) J Eyre 8-12 M Sallagher	91
405	iti	10-3	SHOWBOAT 20 (F) (R Homogeoph) & Hells 8-12	88
406	(41	20-1	SWASS LAW 20 (6) (Good) phon S Ein Suppor 8-12 G Hand	92
407	(3)	124-	NATALIA SAY 329 (F) IP Backer) P Cole 8-7 M Rimoner	80
BETTI Natalia			Nien, 3-1 Green Card. 4-1 Swess Law, 5-1 Arnet Alberto, 7-1 Showbord, 10-1 Negras	
		•	ACO, CECAR ABRUME C 43 I Book is ALD Choosis bloom D con	1

EUDM EUGHE

לטטט וווווטן				
AMID ALBADOU bear Peartrer House foi in 18- namer handscap at Kewbary (firm, cook to firm) AMIDIG MED bear the Prinze 29-1 at 16-corner maiden at Newmarket (firm, good); GREEN CARD bear allow the or Depart Good at in 18-corner mades at Report (firm, good to firm) on petrul male start. SHOWBOAT bear effort beat May are 51 or 10-	numer marken at Lecester (71, good to family 95 SWSS LAW best Intelligate 141 in 6-ass constitutions care at Newmarkst (71, good) visition/90.04 (38) bester of 31/4 3x4 NATAL BAY best Europhers 11/4) at 5-numer constitution at Windows (51, good to family laby 96, Selections AARD ALBADOU (nap)			

4.05 CRAWLEY WARREN HANDICAP

1.	324. (2M) (10	runners)	
٥t	(4)	211-61	RICHCALLCCH 56 (CD F.G.S) (F Cone) J King 5-9-13 Waten Dayer (3)	90
05	(5)	4:25-4	NGRTFERN PLET 29 (D.G.) : Ascura for Pleasure! Mrs A Perest 4-9-8 A Clark	94
Ü	ıβı	4115-0	SOLIAR 36 G.D.F.O. G.E. Legach A Alexand 5-940	90
34	(F)	1131	GRAND CRU S (7 G.S) (4 Charge, J Califren 6-8-12	98
3	181	£906-5	FELDROSE 13 (RS) Crarector Plan III Maggarage 8-8-12 Date O'Neil	蛇
06	(5)	5-5112	SEA FREEDOM 8 (1.57,G.S) (151s 2 Server G Bailding 6-8-10 S Drowne	97
7	(1)	250-30	SHOWER STOP WITHOUT PROFIT DOWN SHOW SHOW SHOW SHOW SHOW SHOW SHOW SHOW	99
.3	131	40150	GACERGACO 151 (EF) Gr. G. Landerin P. Printer 6-7-10	_
Ç	(3)	2262.5	RED WHIRE WITH TO IN Secretary Record R Secretary 7-7-10 F Norton	-
ŀΣ	GQ.	50C 23	SPECES PROCESS A Minor Silvery 6-7-10 N Carbbe	83
		שניים 4 ביי שני	්යට 7-0 See ම්දරස්තා මිංචි 'දේසිකස් මිසේ. 11-2 Boker 13-2 Grand Chu 10-1 Se ක්රීම්ව	ang
		19	SE FCCO FCSUV 4-6-6 3 Septem :*1-4 fm G Littlebe 11 mm	

2.50 EBF ZETLAND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,641, 6f) (13 numers).

85, GRAND CRU best Tradigradt short-hand in 0-runcer handcap at Henbury (2m, soin, SEN FRES-COM 77 2ml of 8 of socjams in handcap Restragate (1m 6, good), RED WHRELMHOU best effort 334f 2ml of 11 to Jacob in handcap at Wolwinsmitter (AW, 1m 7) on perutificate start. Selection: WCHCAULOCH INCHCALLOCH hast Siege Perilous 1941 in 10-tower handicae over course and distance (good) with SHAMER (12th better of) 37 3rd. NORTHERN FLEET 111 4th of 8 to Estady Park in handicae) at Sandower (2to 73th, good to firm). BOLIVAR best ellott less Golden Arone hased in 20-4.35 NEW SOUTH WALES HANDICAP 610 (13) 215-05 PISTOL 18 (D.F.S) (Ass. S Suncar) C Horgan 7-8-13 M Findan SD 511 (27) 5-2221 STSLAR LINE 19 (D.F.) (Dipasey Richar) M Palgiane 4-8-10 M Ribuses 512 (S) 03-0- ANTIGUM, JANE 393 (F) Locke) R American 4-8-5 M Catch 90 S1323 (S) 215304 (DUET ARCH 61 (D.G.) Li Davies) W Mair 4-8-3 Dama Cristal 614 (14) D 13022- TSSUE GP LESS 1022 (S) (No Masse Pros) M Jehrston 4-8-3 D O'Dountine (S) 515 (16) 021-00 SUPPEME SOUND 19 (D.G.) (Mas. P Horist P Harris 3-8-0 A Marita Davyer (S) 616 (4) 15080- MONLAGENT 236 (C.O.F.) (V Asiam) J Sing 5-8-0 Marita Davyer (S) 64 BETTIRR: 11-2 Polar Champ, 6-1 Effectual, 7-1 Arctifd, 8-1 Tylogyetz, 10-1 Tissue Oi Lies, 12-1 Goldson Ace, 88 On The Side, 14-1 others: 1996: ZEFMATT 6-8-5 S Sanders (6-1) M Lisher 14 ran FORM FOCUS ARCTIO about 2½1 3rd of 17 to Wilcoma in transfer handicap at York (1m 21 65yd, good). TYKEYVOR best My Learned Priend 31 in 20-moust handicap at 11¼1 in 6-moust handicap at 11¼1 in 6-moust handicap at 11¼1 in 6-moust handicap at 11¼1 in 16-moust handicap at 11¼1 in 21, good to soft). POLAR CHAMP best Remark Sun neck in 9- | Selection: ARCTRO 5.05 CALIFORMAN MAIDEN STAKES (Div H: 3-Y-0: £3,128: 1m) (12 nathers) BYZANTEM (R Van Bedder) Lord Hentengder 9-0... GOLD MILLENGUM (No. 14 Horges) C Horgen 9-0... RLUSION (Chrosley Park Stor) M Stools 9-0..... 9-12/A 19 (H al-Matterer) N Genham 9-0.... 9 JACA 19 Hr al-Maideney) N Gebrum 9-0 R Supples 77 MESHRAF (H Salem) B Henhary 9-0 J Tutle 0 SECHET STHERGETH 15 (Ingonemy Part) Lady Hordes 9-0 W O'Commun G-SWING WEST 214 (M ANDA P Code 9-0 G Defined 5-1 WARRINGSFORD 19 (GP) Barring M Boutstock J Fanciano 9-0 D Fanciano 60 CHTV GAMBLER 19 (J Many) 6 Benerty 8-9 M R Resourt 80 CHTV GAMBLER 19 (J Many) 6 Benerty 8-9 A G Bart MESTY PUBHT (M Wales) 1 Bailing 6-9 S Williamonth 1 PRIBA 25 (White Base Life 6 Lens 8-9 M Adams)

ZE LLAND MAUDEN STAKES (Z-Y-U) E3,641, 61) (13 runners) DETERMINED TO DEEP 19 "Import 6-0 Rober Globe GET OF SHOLD Town or 19 meyed 6-0 Reference GET OF SHOLD Town or 19 foreign 6-0 Reference HAVE 1-1 Various 19 foreign 6-0 Reference HERSENGS TOWN OF 19 foreign 6-0 Reference OF 19 for 19 foreign General (Location 8-0 Towns 19 Reference OF 19 for 19 foreign General (Location 8-0 Towns 19 Reference OF 19 for 19 foreign General (Location 8-0 Reference OF 19 foreign 8-0 foreign 19 foreign 9-0 Reference SHOULDEST 8-0 Foreign 19 foreign 19 foreign 9-0 Melling DE 19 foreign 8-0 Foreign 19 foreign 9-0 Melling OF 19 foreign 19 foreign 19 foreign 9-0 West Teider OF 19 foreign 19 foreign 19 foreign 9-0 West Teider OF 19 foreign 19 f

(£6,160 Th) (8 namers)

1996, HI SCO 0-10-11, Decree (11-1) M Campbe 10 car

C4

GUIDE SO SOLUTION SOUR 103 (12) 9-0432 G000 TIMES 74 (CD.DF.F.C.S) (Mrs. D Robusson) B Hall 9-18-0 ... B West (4) 88 Research restricts: Diago in brachets. Shalligate from (F.—Rell P.—publist up. II.—usposated rides B.—brought down S.—stipped up. R.—etzent D.—ciscopatised il Horse s reame. Days same last entery. J il jumps, F il that (B.—youth lockers V.—vocr. H.—hood E.—Eyentaiet. C.—courze waters. D.—distance winner CD.—

The Tenes Proste Handicapper's stilling.

BETTING: 9-7 Marson. Warnington, 6-1 Swing West, Contain, 10-1 City Gambler, Misty Point, 12-1 Openi

4.20 rosefull conditions stakes (3-Y-0: £8,109: 1m 2! 60yd) (10 numers) 1 (9) 53123- PASSI (FORLANDO 202 (S) (MS N Todio) / Donlar 8-4...

2	(3)	213-2	FALAX 35 (6) (H Al Matters) W Herr 9-2 K Fallon 9
3	71	1-6	APPRENDICATION OF ESTABLE MACHINERY D Lodes 9-8 K Danley St
•	(7)	01-	ATTITUDE 221 (F) (Gestafield Uti) H Candy 9-0, C Rates 7
•	(2)	16	GREENAWAY BAY 29 (F) (Moders Racoot) G Water 9-0 M Vibre &
δ	(3)	31	LAWARK 25 (D.S) (N N Maldound) D Market \$40
7	(5;	31	LORD ELFOLINK 15 (C.S) (Europei, Scott Ptc) J Dunkon 9-D Pres Edder : &
3	:6)	21	SALAMAH 14 (D.S) (K Aboutla) R Contro 9-0 7 Sorate B
9	(€	1-	STOMAWAY 234 (P) (Gest-John) 5 the Surpor 9-0 A College 8
li.	(13)	21-	ISLE OF MAN 311 (F) (H II Prince Fahri Salman) P Cole 8-11 T Colon B
1 [1	3.		Serv. 5-1 Fates, Lamable, Stonesson, 6-1 Lord Eurolick, Isla Cl. May, 7-1 others.
		•	1996: FARASAN 9-0 J Tale (4-1) H Cord 8 mp
			FORM FOCUS

FALAK 7½1 and of 8 to Grapeshot to issted more at "enumeries (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. ATTIFLIDE to the first (78, scarce 22 in 10-turner majorn at lecturities (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best lecturities (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction majorn at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 96. LAWAHIK best 11-enumer araction at Sandwer (77, good to fara) (ct. 9 4.50 HAREWOOD HANDICAP (\$4,405; 2m 110yd) (6)

1 (5) 2155-0 GO BRITAMBA 35 (D. Erfedy) D Lode 4-9-7.
2 (1) 569-04 CASTLE COURTAGENES 20 (D.F.A.S.) 4-34 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-8 M Hits 59
3 (2) -33122 ETTERBY PARKS (D.B.F.A.S.) 1-34 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-8 M Hits 59
4 (3) 0-225 EMERTYME 8 (P. O.B.F.A.S.) 1-34 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-8 M Hits 59
5 (4) 5-223 EMERTYME 8 (P. O.B.F.A.S.) 1-34 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-8 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-8 (Martine) Lady Herries 19-8-1 (J. Weisers 19-8-1 (J

FORM FOCUS ETTERRY PARK 101 2nd to Top Costs of Chester
Cop at Chester (2m 21 117pd, solit, EMBRYONIC)
Cop at Chester (2m 21 117pd, solit, EMBRYONIC)
Cop at Chester (2m 21 117pd, solit, EMBRYONIC)
Cop 11, good to first) with EMBRYONIC (10th
Cop 12, good

5.20 RIFLE BUTTS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: 52,810: 51) (8 numers) The Company of the Co 200 Land High Admiral 2.30 Mynnidon 4,30 Sea Magic 5.05 Dancing Cavalie

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 TOMBA Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Man Howa.

SOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) draw: 55-6f, High Numbers Best

2.00 BE FRIENDLY HANDICAP (ES,323: 51) (10 runners) BBC1

Long bandings: Lond Stey 7-8, Sing With The Band 7-4. NETTINGS: 4-7 First Malin, 5-7 Lond High Admital, Broadsnins Bearly, 13-2 Technolog, 8-1 Lord Sky, 10-1 Bajas Ross, Assalbasa, U-No-Essy; Bas Haulif Bay, 16-1 Sing With The Band.

FORM FOCUS

2.30 LEAHORST SANDY LANE RATED HANDICAP (Listed ISSES: 3-Y-O; E11,847; 6f) (6 numers)

1-5411 - TOMBA 5 (CD,6.5) (Mr.) Good) B Ma 1-9-11. (1009-9) o (1.1.(2.5) (etc.) 1 decay) a material of the 9-0.

12-004 (2009-9) o (1.1.(2.5) (etc.) 1 decay) (2 Delyer 8-12.

21-3 MAN HOWA 18 (D.F.) (2-billio Mandal Mightenn) (2 Compat 8-11.

1888- J. (1988) Y STACATO 8 (D.S.) (b.f.) Social 1 Design 8-7.

21:53-5 YOUNG BIGNING 35 (D.F.S.) (1 Language & W.F. Million) J Borry 8-7.

01-205 MYRNHOOR 7 (S) (Mr.M. Wenth) Mrs. (. Status 8-7.

3.00 TOTE CHEDIT SILVER BOWL HANDICAP (3-Y-0; £21,300; 1m 30yd) (6 runners)

\$22-90 CAPAR ROYALE 11 (F) (A) Burke's Sh Faculty Skillment's T Barron' 6110-1 AMPAS 26 (D.F.G.S) (Mm I Content) 8 Hais 9-8. 201 ALEXAL 16 (D.S) (Mm II Spormen) W Arris 9-1 2-21 SYC COMMANDER 10 (S) department of Malatone, M Stocks 8-13. 1-18 FUTURE PERFECT 20 (E.D.SF.F.S) (B M Recing) P Cote 8-10. 10-041 OUT OF SKHT 9 (D.S) (Mr B Albo) B Malatone 8-4. SETTERS 5-2 Marci, 7-2 Arayes, Sky Communior, 9-2-Out Ot Sight; 7-1 Patent Pariett, 12-1 Center Royali 1998: WINTER ROMANICE 9-0 Paul Gallery (9-4 fee) E Dunico 10 san

FORM FOCUS

CAVIARI ROYALE 1941 2nd of 5 to Indian in condiTis-maner maken at Lingland (71, AW). RUTURE
Bose states at Window-(61, good) Aug 95. AMYAS
PERFECT boat Rapter 3/1 in 11-numer finding
foot Barning Touth cock in 11-numer handless of Periodical (ing. good to term) on peralsstates at Periodical (ing. good to term) on peralsmate stat.

OUT OF SIGHT heat Great Called 11 in 19-numer
handless are the state of the state

3.30 MORBERLEY MAIDER STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,615: 1m 2f 120yd) (5 numers)

1998: MOUNT ROW 8-6 D R McCabe (2-4 feet L Dopper) 15 ten

4.00 BELICHARM VAUXHALL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,469: 71 30yd) (6 numers)

(E3,469: 71 30yd) (5 TLETHERS)

1 (4) 663-82 LDOK WHO'S CALLERS 25 (No'S Edwards) 8 Nothinor 4-9-10... L Newton 65 2 (3) 529 SEMBRIBL 245 (No's Edwards) 1 Cornell 3-8-19... O Uptime 5 (5) SWET SUMERIES (1980) 3 Nothinor 3-8-13... J Cornell 4 (6) 5-14 WHONESPERD 19 (89) (Salmond Bloodstock 1) J Proctome 3-8-13 D Hardson 96 5 (7) 33 FLEMENT 257 (No's Redshift) 8 Fills 3-8-8... D Holland 8 (2) SWEET CONTRACTO (No's Scholar) 8 LBC 3-8-8... D R MyCobe — BETTIME 7-4 Fundsh, 3-3 Mannington, 9-2 Swift Sownigs, 5-1 Gelectrick 7-1 Swiet Contents 20-1 Look Who's Calling:

1996: SANORAL 3-8-8 L Sarrol (11-2) J Sounden 13 and

4.30 ERF ST HELENS MADEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,474: 5f) (4 runners)

1 (4) 3 LLANASA 20 (Lord Messyn) 4 Berry 8-11
2 (1) MRSS CAMSEROUS (Mr M Quint) M Charges 8-11
3 (3) PHANTON RIVE (Mr Bolley) A Daley 8-11
4 (2) SEA MAGIC &M # B Related 9 Pills 8-11
BETTING: 7-4 Llanses, Sea Magic, 9-2 Miss Despurose, Phinton Rive

BETTING: 4-1 Secret Service, Service SR, 5-5 Dancing Causilor, Targettin, 13-2 Setsia, 7-1 General Mandat. 10-1 Urgant Ruply, Compute Polylor, 12-7 others.

1996: SATIN LOVER 8-8-0 5 Copy (15-8 les) Mrs M-Renday 6 car

Pick up the phone FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS

staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank' or building society debit cards. 1 mile, The Curregh 3.55pm, Live on CH4 TV. 3/1 Dazzle 3/1 Oh Nellie .10/3 Seebe 7/2 Ryafan 5/1 Strawberry Roan 20/1 Classic Park 25/1 Caiseal Ros 50/1 Via Verbano 66/1 Royale 100/1 Almost Skint Each way One Pitch the odds a place 1,2,3. Prices subject to fluctuation. localistic up to 3.40pm. Tettersells Rule 4 (c) may apply, Non rulmer – no bet

LATEST ODDS ON WIRES HER TY TEXT * Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603 RING TODAY-BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40 Free bet is a £10 Straight Forecast on The Curragh 3.55pm today



RACELINE

DONCASTER: Trainers: 5 bin Surpor: 7 winners from 25 numers: 28.0%, 3 Whagg, 11 from 46, 23.9%, 3 Gosden: 29 from 133, 21.3%, 8 Hills; 31 winners from 160 rides; 19.4%, 3 Price, 4 from 160 rides; 19.4%, 3 Price, 4 from 160 rides; 19.4%, 3 Price, 4 from 21, 19.0%, C Ruter; 3 from 23, 13.0%, K Carley, 31 from 242, 12.2%. HAYDOCK PARK: Trainers: 6 Meetten, 4 from 14, 28 6% R Bastiman, 3 from 11, 27 3% W Janus 6 from 27, 22 2% 6 Helfs, 15 from 10, 21 4% Jocksys 10 Uthera, 3 from 17, 17 6% D Hamfson 7 from 42, 16 7%, A Cutherie, 7 from 54, 13 0% D R McCabe, 3 from 24, 12 5% Countries of the country of the country of the country of the countries of 13 0% D R McCabe, 3 from 24, 12 5% KEMPTON PARIC Trainers: J Bradiev, 3 from 9, 33 3%: R Armstrong, 7 from 31, 22 6%. M Scotte, 17 from 91, 18 7%, J Fanshavre 10 from 63, 15 9% Jockeys: R Hughes 9 from 44, 20 5% R Cochrane 16 from 141, 11,3%: W Ryan, 10 from 38, 10 2%, Dane O'Nell, 7 from 70, 10 0%

SPECIALISTS

BETTERS of riggs 4.1 Desprishing 114, Sections Ros Fit Historius, B-1 Hard, 10-1 Promain Rate, The Principal 12-1 cities 1996 PELLO DE A PARA CISARO (PARA LI Duningo Birgan 3.20 MERLIN LAND ROVER HANDICAP | Company | Comp | 168 | \$25.50 | 10 (2.25) | 2 (2.25) | 3 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | 4 (2.25) | Long transfertig (1971) Filtre 1-9 BETTINGS 3-1 disport (4) - 100 (-) reption Malerny, 6-1 Faces Robin Person Face 8-1 Pleating, 10-FORM FOCUS HE TAILS SAN SECOND TO CONTINUE OF THE CONTINU 3.50 NAPOLEONS RACING HANDICAP (£4,385) 1m 4h 17 n.mers)

1 16 BISCO, CLASS FREE 20 (6) Class Stockman Prot (Campbell 4-10-0. ... R Price 91 2 (7) SCRS 12 (277 Price) 2 (SETTING, 3-4 year Permitts, 11-4 Lettyrids Line, 4-1 Augustus, 5-1 Templess, 10-1 Verban, 14-1 Categories, Sea Late. 1998 SELLTHARP ACT 4-7-13 (Retts (7-4 for H Card, 6 or

CLASSIC RIPD about 2% and 2% in restorm 20% on hundroop of Societies (in all course). The state of hundroop of Societies (in all course) in the state of hundroop of the interest of the state of hundroop of the interest of the state of hundroop of the state of the s

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TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT PREEPHONE 0800 289 892, WILLIAM HILL RULES APPO!
PRICES SUBJECT TO PLUCTUATION.

NOTED sportsman though

he is, Robert Sangster will surely struggle to treat equally

the twin imposters of victory

and defeat at the Curragh

tomorrow. The Derby now looms large and Sangster's Revocue can ill afford the ignominy of defeat in the

Lexus Irish 2,000 Guineas Judged strictly on his late flurry in the Newmarket

equivalent, Revoque would have serious prospects of avenging his defeat by Entrepreneur at Epsom. In racing, however, the equation is sel-

dom that simple. This one is

complicated by Revoque's ped-igree credentials, which lack the apposite blend for the

Derby. Only a classic victory can further boost the colrs

value and at first glance this contest looks at his mercy. Sangster was adamant that Revoque's early tribulations at Newmarket deprived his colt

of the bounty. But Revoque's problems arose from his in-

ability to match the fast early

pace. Yet he was unable to

measure. Revoque may now

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

Yalaietanee subsequently.

3.55 AIRLIE / COOLMORE IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS

8 (1) 133-22 SEERE 13 67 (6 Standardiga) | Balding (EB) 9-0 C Asm 9 (9) 311-41 STRAMBERRY ROAM 13 (0.6) (Art. J Magnas) A P O'Trian 9-0 C I 10 (2) 2-5021 VAN PERBANG E (6) (0 Dobscard) 1 Bolger 9-0 C E BETTIME: 11-4 Dazde, 3-1 Ryaba, 4-1 Oh Mellie, 11-2 Straubnury Rope, 8-1 Soube, 16-1 others.

1996: MATIYA 9-0 W Carson (5-1) B Hanbury (GE) 12 #

Grimley Gale leads

chase for top award

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS.

WITH just three weekends left first and second in the nat-

of the 1997 season, the Grand ional women riders' champ-

most successful horse, is still Meanwhile, Butler John

wins is the Herefordshire exertions, could turn out again mare Grimley Gale, trained on Monday at the South

Heading the list with eight and, if recovered from his

Marnier Award, given to the ionship.

by Mark Jackson. One victory behind is Touch N Pass, owned and trained by Robert Williams near Porthcawl, and

Butler John, handled by Victor

All three horses run at least once this Bank Holiday week-

end. Grimley Gale, who is in

the driving seat and already

assured of the champion

mares' title, could run in the ladies' open at today's

Tredegar Farmers meeting.

where she would face Touch

This would also mean Shir-

ley Vickery, who rides the

mare, taking on Pip Jones on

the Welsh horse, the two being

Darmall in Devon.

STAKES (Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £84,250: 1m) (10 numers)

(12.0-1) OHI (1) (1)

3001 SLOTAMA PIQUE 10 (V.F.S) & Richards 8-12-0
2 4232 MITULE 17 15:5 Comm 7-11-2
3 0655 MINUS MINISTRAL 21 (6) D Lamb 7-11-2
9 PAPO OVER THE WESTERN 22 (6) D Lamb 7-11-2
5 4-09 STEEN, GOLD 14 7 9 (PML) 7-11-2
7 5403 LAMBRID 21 (8) 6 (2001) 7-11-11
7 5403 LAMBRID 21 (8) 6 (2001) 7-11-11 5-6 Stotemations T-2 Filiplia is-1 Lemping T-1 Spongarong 12-1 Fings Ministral 50-1 others

4.50 STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE (£3.073 2m ft 110yd) (10)

TRAINERS: G. N. Moste, T. entrett, both 15 runners, 46.7%, 6. Richards, 12 from 42, 26.6%, D. Moltae, 5 from 24, 25.9%, M. Hammend, 3 from 27, 117%, 16 Cuspment, 6 from 57, 125.5%, DOCKEYS, If Bettley, 4 sentiest, from 8 rote, 50.0%, B. MacGrath, 3 from 12, 25.0%, D. J. Mollabb, 6 from 26, 23.1%, R. Durnwoody, 4 from 18, 22.2%, L. O'huaz, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

4-1 indian Jockey, 5-1 Falehallitem, 6-1 Clempte Supreme Scotto's 6-1 Sannaben Kansoka Rachael's Owen, 16-1 others

2.10 Cartisle Bandito's. 2.40 All Clear. 3.15 True Fortune, 3.45 Skane River, 4.20 Stotamatique, 4.50 Smolensk.

2.10 MOORGATE RACING HANDICAP HURDLE

Carl Evans: 3.15 Jayandoubleu.

(22,430: 2m 11 110yd) (10 runners)

GOING, GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.40 MARTEN JULIAN NOVICES HANDICAP

(£2,954 2m 11 110yd) (7)

THUNDERER

2.834 2017 (1.10)4, (1.)
1 251F DARING PAST 13 (V.D.F.G.S) M Hammond 7-11-12
R During POWNOODY

PROT ALL 52 (8.6) P Harres 9-10-0. Wherston
P PP TOP IT ALL 52 (8.6) P Harres 9-10-0. Wherston
P PP TOP IT ALL 52 (8.6) P Harres 9-10-0. Wherston
P PETAR
P TOP OWNER, OWNER 21 (8.6) P Trainers 110-0 R McGrain (5)
P P TOP OWNER 21 (8.6) P Trainers 10-0 R McGrain (5)
P P TOP OWNER 21 (8.6) P Mars 1 Marstall 6-10-0. K Johnson
P P P P TOP OWNER 21 (8.6) P Mars 1 Marstall 6-10-0. K Johnson

3.15 DODSON & HORRELL MADDEN HUNTERS

/Amateurs: £1.852: 3m 2f) (14)

USEC BURNY HARE 219 J Batter 9-12-0 ... If Fornstal (7) 2 -27F CAMESTER CASTLE 77 (7) Mics 2 Green 9-12-0 D R Micleol (7) 3 F434 COOL VILL 21 R Thomson 9-12-0 ... Miss 9 Robson (5) 3 F434 COOL VILL 21 R Thomson 9-12-0 ... J Thompson (7) 5 5414 JAYARDOURKEU 77 (6) W A Croper 8-12-0 ... T Scott (7) 5 5414 JAYARDOURKEU 77 (6) W A Croper 8-12-0 ... M H Naughton (5) 7 4239 NING SPHRIG 9 (F.G.S.) Mics C Danson 12-12-0 Miss V Jackson (6) 7 4239 NING SPHRIG 9 (F.G.S.) Mics C Danson 12-12-0 Miss V Jackson (6) 8 P. 2544 SAMBS OF GOLD 51 (5) C Nommo 9-12-0 ... L L 27 (1) 15 1512 TRUE FORTUNE 14 (G.S.) John Misson 7-12-0 ... L L 27 (1) 15 1512 TRUE FORTUNE 14 (G.S.) John Misson 7-12-0 ... J. Juries (5) 11 1957 WARIG HOW 219 (G.) J M Furness 9-12-0 ... A Robson (7)

he rode the son of Fairy King British horses have bright

WARWICK

6.20 LEAM AMATEUR RIDERS SKY

2 34-0 POLLY PECILIAR S3 (CD.F.G.S) 8 Smart 6-11-2
Miss V Marchall (5) 1
3 5-00 WENTBRIDGE LAD 16 (B.D.F.G.S) 8 Smart 6-11-2
Miss V Marchall (5) 1
4 504 KINGCHIP BOY 16 (Y.D.F.G.) M Fram 8-11-2 S Livratin (5) 12
4 1002 MONTONE 55 (Y.D.F.G.S) J Jenisor 7-11-1 M Mannish 5
6 0-00 MR TEBH 5 (D.G.) Mr. J Ramodes 5-11-0
Mrs ERamodes (5) 13
7 00-2 MARLAANA 28 (G.) P Wahnyn 4-10-13 Miss S Sammorth (5) 10
9 43-2 BABA AU RHURF 7 I Williams 5-10-11
T ACCARTIN 17
9 B-36 MISHT OF GLASS 25 (Y.D.F.) JEyre 4-10-8
Miss Diana J Jones 16
10 6363 ROMAN REEL 18 (D.F.G.) 6 L Moore 6-10-7 Miss J Moore 18
11 4-40 MOWAE 12 (F.) D Crapman 5-10-6 Miss R Carth 6
2 6200 DISPAST 50 (B.D.G.) Strong P -110-6 Miss A Carth 6
13 3401 JISSAW BOY 12 (F.G.S) A Barby 9-10-5 Miss R Carth 6
14 445 MERCRLESS COTT 62 (B.G.) B Materia 3-10-6 Miss J Afficon 7
15 000- EVERSET 305 (F.G.S) A Barby 9-10-1 Miss A Heactamson (5) 4
16 2513 CLIED IP 7 (V.D.F.S) P France 4-10-1 Miss A Heactamson (5) 4
17 0-42 ASTAAL 19 (G.) 9 Hodges 7-10-0 Miss C Williams (5) 20
18 40-4 MILPHY'S 6OLD 12 (D.F.) R Fahey 6-10-0 C Russet (5) 11
19 0-02 MR CLIBE 19 (B.C.D.F.G.) J Bradley 7-9-10 Miss C Williams (5) 20
19 0-03 SOUARED AWAY 28 (B.D.F.) J W France 5-9-12

6.50 SANDRETTO MAIDEN STAKES C Rutter 5 J Quann 1 R Hansin (3) 10 5 Drowne 8 .. £ Newton 11

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANERS: A Streeter, 3 winners from 18 numers, 30 0%, B Hanbury, 3 from 11, 27 3%, 5 C Williams, 3 from 11, 27 3%, M Heaton-Elfs, 6 from 26, 21 4%, P Chapote-Hyam, 6 from 32, 18 5%, P Cole, 13 from 74, 17.6%, P Walaym, 3 from 18, 16.7%, F Williams, 3 from 18, 16.7%, J Peace, 4 from 27, 14 8%

7.20 ANGLO HOLT HANDICAP (£3,252: 1m 6t 194yd) (12) E3.252: 1m 6/194yd) (12) 1 -416 PARAINSE HAVY 13 R D.F.G) C Factor 6-9-12 2 1231 SOUMAN 8 (8.D.F.G) F Flower 7-9-1 3 .00- COUCHANT 36-1 Virus 6-9-1 4 800- ARKIN SPRT 98) COF.G.S.): 5-re 6-2-10 M 5-4063 STALLED 12 R.E.S.): Wayer 7-8-8 6 06-0 LAMILORD 19 (8.F.G): 5-seet. 5-8-6 7 2131 GOLDEN HADERT 7/0,G.S.) M Ryan 6-8-5 8 0-50 MORSONG 25 (F) R Alchers 5-8-3 3 3004 WHOTHEREST 7/0,G.S.) Sheetsm 9-7-13 10 3454 COLERIDES 7 (8.C.) F.G.): Sheetsm 9-7-13 11 -534 ROMAITO 14 (F) M Blackbur 7-7-10 2 310- BADARY 463 (8F.F.G): Paraise 7-7-10. . R Price 1 M Gallagher ! K Fallon 3 M Fenton 7 A Clark 4 § Samdore 10

3-1 Sectama 4-1 Golden Hadeer, 11-2 Paradise Navy. Colendor 12-1 Romaldo Badawi 14-1 stness 7.50 EDGEHILL NOVICE MEDIAN SKY **AUCTION STAKES** (2-Y-0: £3,252, 51) (14) 2 CAVERSTELD 5 A Hannon 6-12
3 CHUNTO 17 P (Despote Hayan 8-12)
3 CHUNTO 17 P (Despote Hayan 8-12)
4 FAMMING CHURCH 50 B Meenan 8-12
0 REGALO 13 O Hade 8-12
0 REGALO 13 O Hade 8-12
0 CHU TERN EMERALD 19 J White 3-7
0 CHU TERN EMERALD 19 J White 3-7
DESERT MATIVE R Harmon 8-7
GREAT LYTH LASS P (Valled 5-7
GREAT LYTH LASS P (Valled 5-7
HERCES OF MEATH M Units 8-7
0 UNIVERSAL LADY 29 Charse 5-7
UNIVERSAL LADY 29 Charse 5-7
UNIVERSAL LADY 29 Charse 5-7

7-2 Chumio 4-1 Caverslield, 5-1 Flammig Ember Anan Da 8-1 Deser Native. 10-1 Magic Rambow, Yorkes Boy, 12-1 others

8.20 RADWAY CLAIMING STAKES

(3-Y-0: £2,670: 1m 2l 169yd) (7) 1 3004 CHIEF PREDATOR 12 R Hampon 8-11 . . . Dane O'Neil 4 3 0-30 ROMOUSTA D'OR 16 G 12m 8-8 4 400 POW WOW 279 P Ecdes 8-7 5 -002 DOUBLE GOLD 30 (C.BF.F.G) P Mechan 8-6 6 -500 WARREDR AMB 15 May P Duffeld 8-5 7 GREENACRES GODDESS I Wall 8-3 11-8 Double Gold 9-4 Chief Predator 4-1 Clear The Art. 8-1 others

8.50 RATLEY HANDICAP (£4,028. 1m 2f 169yd) (12)

1 2-04 TRACEABILITY 19 (CD,F,G,S) S C Williams 4-9-13 K Fallon 11
2 0-00 NGWPORT NNEGHT 10 (D,F,G) R 44-bursi 6-9-8 S Sanders 4
3 062- NGRTH REEF 161 (G,S) J Practic 6-9-4 M Wighten 7
4 3-1- WELL DRAWN 499 (G) H Corby 4-3-3 R Hughes 3
6 34-0 KALIRIN 54 (Curriam 3-8-13 R Hughes 3
7 01-0 ASKERN 42 (D,F) D Havdin Jones 6-8-11 M Ferton 1
8 0000 NOSEY NATIVE 28 (D,F,S) J Practic 4-8-5 Urbina 5
9 3-31 MAD MALITANT 5 (D,F,G) A Street 8-8-5 Urbina 5
10 00-1 JAMSES 807 8 (G) Mr. J Cept 3-8-5 Urbina 5
11 6000 GERONS BOY 7 (G) S Cros 4-8-5 R Perham 6
12 -564 WILLIAM WALLACE 7 O Haydin Jones 3-8-2 S Drowne 2
9-) Mad Milliam 11-2 Moor Blaz Jame's Sov 7-1 Tracesbular 9-1 Norm Reel 9-2 Mad Militant 11-2 Moon Blact, Jame's Boy, 7-1 Traceability 8-1 North Reel. Well Oraum Kalimul, 10-1 others

☐ Panama City, ridden by Frankie Dettori. heads a strong British raiding party in tomorrow's Derby Italiano at the Capannelle. Rome. He is joined by Badlesmere, Ivan Luis, Musical Dancer, Single Empire, Stanton Harcourt, State Fair and Yavlensky.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER 2.15 Muzrak. 2.45 Moss Pageant. 3.15 Tough Test. 3.45 Royal York. 4.15 Colorful Ambition. 4.50 Master

2.15 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,632: 2m 4i 110yd) (11 runners)

(£2,406: 3m 11) (10)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3-1 Tough Test, 9-2 Nijway, 17-2 Wheat Felbe, Supposin, 13-2 Royal Vacation, 10-1 Sciabo View, Russy Blade, 12-1 others.

3.45 KEOGHAN'S ALE MARES ONLY HANDICAP

2 (1,046, 2111) (37)

1 125 BEST OF ALL 10F (D.BF,F) J Sett. 5-12-0

2 0F13 ROYAL YORK 15 (BF,G) 5 inclases 5-11-10. P Carberry
3 0511 RADMORE BRANDY 67 (D.F,G) 6 inclases 5-11-16 R Burns (7)
4 4024 PARSON'S LOGGE 29 (D.G) 1 Lumpo 9-11-0 R Supple
5 2023 SAUDDAW CARIBA Izz. V Revely 8-11-0 G Lee
6 00-5 FREINCH PROJECT (Mr. S. Stantburn 5-10-1 G FRyan (3)
7 0010 WHITEGATESPRINCESS 10 (VF) 9 (BLOCK 6-10-0 B Startey
8 U1-P NO TAKERS 68 (F) S kentewed 10-10-0 J Ofteny (7)
9 00PP MEADOWLECK 10 W Young 3-10-0 J STaylar (5) 5-2 Royal roak 3-1 Hormon Brandy 9-2 Suddan Samba 5-1 Parson's Lodge, 6-1 Bela () 48-10-1 Whiteguispinicess 33-1 others

4.15 BUCHANAN ORIGINAL HANDICAP HURDLE

1 4331 COLORPUL AMBITION 24 (D.F) Mic A Swingers 7-11-13 **** *** SULUMPTUL AMBITION 24 (D.F) Mis A Switten 7-11-13
 *** J. Supple
 *** SASS SHARP SENSATION 15 (C.F) 6 A Harter 7-11-2
 *** J. Supple
 *** SASS SHARP SENSATION 15 (C.F) 6 A Harter 7-11-2
 *** J. Supple
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 *** SASS SHARP SENSATION 15 (C.F) 6 A HARTER 7-11-2
 *** SASS SHARP SENSATI 5-2 Colonial Ambaton, 9-2 Highland Way, 13-2 Longcroft, Shelton Abbey, 8-1 Sharp Sensahon, Kindo Grobey, Jambo Stat, 14-1 others

4.50 FLYING ACE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs, £1,317; 2m 41 110yd) (11)

1 421P CUMBERLAND BLUES 11 (C.F.G) Mis A Lactwood 9-12-7 1 421P COMPRENDAND BLUES 11 (C.P.G) and A Commod 2-12-7

2 1222 HOWAYMAN 9 (6.5) K Angerson 7-12-7. R Food (5)
3 423 KNOWE HEAD 15 (CD.BF.F.G.S) Mess 2 Steintworps 13-12-7

S Brisby (7)
4 URGS MASTER KIT 9 (D.F.G.S.) J Bluings 8-12-7 MB Bradburne (7)
5 4254 BUCKAMEER BRY 15 S Potentingh 10-12-0. R Hale (6)
6 3PU FROUGH STIFF 8 (6.5) 4 J Brown 9-12-0. N Wilson (5)
7 F939 KINGS TOKEN 14P (6) F Walpon 7-12-0. J Walbon
8 O-PP PERCY PIT 72 Mr C Necomark 8-12-0. P Johnson (5)
9 65-5 REED 9 (F.G.) Ival Provan 12-12-0. D MasProil (7)
10 UPF1 THANK U JMN 77 (D.F.G) Mrs 6 Sorter 9-12-0. Miss 7 Jackson (7)
11 3-15 STILLUDIO 15 (G.S.) C Wisson 70-11-9

14 Browning 9-2 Known Mart 7-1 Martin Village 10 C Wilson (7)
14 Browning 9-2 Known Mart 7-1 Martin Village 10 C Wilson (7)

5-3 Hossyman 9-2 knowe Head, 7-1 Marter KA, 8-1 Fresen SRP Thank 12 Jun. Stallodo, 18-1 Cumberland Blues 26-1 others.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Chepstow (first race, 2.30), Leicester (2.20), Redcar (2.15), Sandown Park (C4, 2.05), Cartmai (2.00), Forthvell Park (2.00) Harelood (2.30), Huntingdon (2.00), Uttoweler (2.30), Wutherby (2.15) TUESDAY: Leicester (2.30), Redcar (2.15), Sandown Park (Sky. 6.20), Heuram (Sky. 6.35)

FRIDAY: Ayr (200) Bath (6.20) Cartenck Bridge (2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10), Strafford (6.35) SATURDAY, Catterick Bridge (200), Kempton Park (Sk), 6.251 Lingfield Park (BBC, 1.45), Musselburgh (Sk), 6.451, Nowmarket (C4, 2.10), Market Rasen (6.36), Seafford (C4, 2.15) Flat mecango in bold

6-1 Tachitisi Teir Arrasing Sasi Stone River One More Goine, 7-1 Stylich Indensil Diady Rymer January 7-1 offices

4.20 LAURENT-PERRIER CHAMPAGNE NOVICES CHASE (£2,841 $\,$ 3m 21) (7)

(10) STATEMENT 14 (F.C.S) O M Moor, C-11-12 M Benday
1 1971 SMOLENS, 21 (F) 2 Seny 5-11-12 R Durmannly
3 190 ADMANCE EAST 127 (G) W Doc 5-11-14 R Durmannly
4 P. DRAMATIC PASS 137 M (Assume 8-11-5 M Fester
5 00 ELLOTT THE BOTLES 14 Cas 2 Sens 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
6 0552 HADD OF ETRAY 10 Mac 2 Crees 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
6 0552 HADD OF ETRAY 10 Mac 2 Crees 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
6 0550 HADD OF ETRAY 10 Mac 2 Crees 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
6 0550 HADD OF ETRAY 10 Mac 2 Crees 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
6 0550 HADD OF ETRAY 10 Mac 2 Crees 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
8 1-10 JOHNNEYS SPRIT 61 7 Creetban 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
8 1-10 JOHNNEYS SPRIT 61 7 Creetban 5-11-6 R Williamson (5)
9 4550 KINGRESHER PRAVE 61 12 Macanes 4-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 4550 KINGRESHER PRAVE 61 12 Macanes 4-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 Creetban 5-10-6 W Worthington (1)
9 1-10 Creetban 5-10 C 7-4 Smolend: 11-4 Ept. Strongert, 9-1 Hond & Sept., 6-1 Advance Ept. 10-1 Kappishet Brain, 16-1 Factie, Georier CS-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

over this stiff mile. Seebe, THUNDERER inched out of the French 1,000 6.20 Night Of Glass, 6.50 Super Monarch. 7.20 Golden Hadeer. 7.50 Chunito. 8.20 Double Gold. 8.50 Traceability. Guineas two weeks ago, has now had two hard races in

succession. Ryafan has the form and will cope with the surface, but she has been slow DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

HANDICAP (£2,592: 1m) (20 runners) 1 600V LIME STREET BLUES 100J (S) T Keddy 6-11-7

2 34-0 POLLY PECULIAR S3 (CD,F.C,S) 8 Smart 6-11-2

20 -030 SOUARED AWAY 28 (B.D.F.) J W Payne 5-9-12 Miss C Lake (5) 13 Miss V Roberts (5) 19

2-1 Summerosa, 4-1 Super Morterth, 6-1 March Crusader, 7-1 Yabert El Sultan, 14-1 Jolly Jackson, Matnaka, 16-1 other:

8.00 OVAL MAIDEN STAKES (£3,773: 1m 1f 79yd) (11)

7-2 Daugen Alfait, 9-2 Reise A Proce, Dallance, 5-1 Eagle Dancer, 8-1 Kisbiocon Tellion, Tessab, 10-1 others.

3-1 Mahmet, 11-2 Deli, 7-1 Beltron, Planst, Sky Moentain, 8-1 Campane, 12-1 Bundell Lane, Colic Pageant, 14-1 others.

SKY

40-YEARS-AND-STILL-RUNNING HANDICAP (£2,862: 51) (10)

Marito Duyer (3) 2
10 0035 SUPERLAG 2 (0.F.S) J Bridger 5-7-12 ______ J Lower 10

ACROSS THE WATER C Cyes 8-11 W J O'Connox 5
D JUDE 8 P Cole 8-11 T Colm 6
S MARAGNAR 19 R Hartons 8-11 D Blags 7
3 MELOTICA 208 M Stade 8-11 R Cockane 1
5-0 MISELIBAR 8 J S Marre 8-11 N Adents 2
6-0 OFF THE RALS 281 H Candy 8-11 A MeSistors 3
2 TRUSSA 18 L Cornate 8-11 D Harrison 8 7-4 Timessa, 2-1 Melonica, 7-1 Jude, 8-1 Magaona, 12-1 Off The Rails, Top. 25-1 Across The Water, 33-1 Misellina

8.40 KING POST LIMITED STAKES (All-weather: £2,862: 1m 2f) (8)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

6.10 Jack The Lad. 6.40 lilegally Yours. 7.10 Blundell Lane, 7.40 Dande Flyer, 8.10 Melodica.

... Revoque, left, and Yalaietanee, who fought out the Greenham Stakes finish, renew rivalry in the Irish 2,000 Guineas

CATOMORHOWS SIASSIC LINE-UP

Romanov betrayed his inex-

perience when winning nar-

rowly at Sandown. So I favour

Royal Amaretto, who routed a decent field at Newbury last

month. A colt of substance.

Royal Amaretto boasts decent

juvenile form and may have

made abnormal progress over

the winter. Certainly Olivier

Peslier was impressed when

their Dewhurst Stakes show-

ing last term. As for Musical

Pursuit, Pat Eddery preferred

the chances of Poteen in the 2,000 Guineas — in which

Musical Pursuit's slipping

saddle cost him any chance. If

Eddery's assessment is accu-

rate, Musical Pursuit has

something to find with

4.10 LEXUS IRISH 2,000 GUINEAS STAKES

(Group I: 3-Y-O colts and fillies: £112,700; 1m) (12 numers)

10-030 BOB THE BROKER 14 (C.S) (M White) P Flyon 9-0 ...

Revoque through Poteen.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

BACING: REVOQUE MAY BE FOUND WANTING IN SECOND GUINEAS TEST

Royal Amaretto has classic flavour

(3-Y-0: £2,683: 1m 2f) (6 runners) 1 OTT1 JACK THE LAD 4 (D.F.S.S) Hetherton 9-12 (5st) ____ T Skidelf 4 2 20-3 CRD'S PEARL 25 M Templers 9-5 ______ P Clarto (3) 5 3 00-0 SDOGN 19 (7) T Mils 9-1 ______ J Cornally (8) 2 4 4161 KINGSDOWN TRIX 23 (D.6) G L Moore 8-5 _____ 6 Hamoon 1 0 00-0 T ULSA 14 B Gabby 9-0 ______ 6 Gabbagher 3 6 605 PURPLE MAJZE 16 J Alerburs 7-12 ______ P Fitzelmons 6 2-1 Jack The Lad, 11-4 Clm's Prant, 4-1 Kingsdown Trix, 6-1 Soden, 8-1 Purple Maker, 10-1 Tubs.

day's Welsh meeting.
Touch 'N' Pass, who measures just over 14 hands, could also be out again on Monday. heading for the Albrighton (All-weather: £1,985: 2m) (9) Woodland's ladies' race.

In a separate title battle, Julian Pritchard can inch his way towards the men's championship with a win on Nether Gobions at this fixture. TODAY'S MEETINGS: Dulverton East at Mounsey Hill Gate, 5m north of Dulverton (first race 1.30); Tredegar Farmers, Bassaleg, nr J28 M4 (2.30). TOMORROW: Berks & Bucks at Kingston Blount, 8m NW of High Wycombe (2.30).

runs at the Dulverton East

on Monday at the South

Tetcott, where Grimley Gale would be a runner in the

ladies' race if foregoing to-

(Fantastic Fellow fifth) in the

French 2,000 Guineas on very

been by British-trained rivals.

Desert King has two lengths

gallop in the Greenham ence may have sapped the Stakes, when Yalaietanee, confidence from both who reopposes today teal-to-

who reopposes today, took his The best of the home contin-

measure. Revoque may now gent is Desert King, but his require a distance in excess of two most recent defeats have

disappointed when fourth to find on Musical Pursuit on

21-43 ALMOST SIGHT 35 (F) (Pictoro His Synd) Mind (Outer 9-0 N McCatego 22 11-341 CASSEA, ROS 7 (D.F.S) (D McRathler) J Bolger 9-0 K Manning 90 4200-1 CLASSIC PARK 35 (C.G.S) (Mrs S Bures) A P (Pitter 9-0 S Craine 94 1142-3 DAZZLE 20 (F.S) (Classic) Park Study M Studie (Gil) 9-0 J Raid 98 4-4220 CM RELIE 20 (F.S) (Classic) Park Study M Studie (Gil) 9-0 J Raid 98 2-455 ROYALE 21 (S Ryar) A P O'Brian 9-0 J A Heiterman 80 121- RYAFAN 220 (D.S.S) (Raidella) J Booden (Gil) 9-0 L Delton 98 123-27 SERDE 13 80 (S Standaldon) J Booden (Gil) 9-0 L Delton 98

Brighton :

N' Pass.

undecided.

Only 110/11
Geing: firm
2:10 (£213;d) 1. WHO NOSE (R Hughes, 7-1); 2. Lebuche (Dane O'Nell, 2-1 [Hav]; 3. Callisan (N Adams, 20-1). ALSO RAN
2-1 [Hax Dande Times (SR), 7
Gleentrook, 12 Chiles Shan (SR), 20
Printfelegits, The Hobby Lobby (Hit) 8
531. 11, 254, 11, at hd, 354, 8 Meetian at Lamboum Time S 10-21.

ran. 11, 251, 11, sh hd, 3141. B Meethan at Lamboum Tole 55 10. En 10, 21.10, 21.290. OF, 55.20. CSF. 218.81. After a stewards' inquery, Lobuche, who finished that, was, disqualitied and placed ascond. Bought in 5,000 grs. 2.40 (fm 3f 198) cd. 1, OPERA BUSE (A Whelen, 14-1): 2. Florentino (D Holland, 94 placy, 3. Resnown (T Cusm. 94 placy, 3. Resnown (T Cusm. 94 placy, 3. Resnown (T Cusm. 94 placy, 3. Apollono, 16 testoti (disq), Montecesso (5th), 40 Brooza Maqueste, 11 can Nh, hd, 294, 100 Mas G Kelesuay at Whistombe. Tole: £16.80, 59.40, 52.40, 51.60. DE: 551.80. 10: \$49.40 CSF. 546.65.

S.10 (im \$2.98,6) CSF 246.65.
3.10 (im \$2.98,6) 1, MONTFORT (TOurn, 1-3.5x; Private Hendicapper's top rating), 2 Foreign Rule (R Heskin, 6-1); 3. Hope Chee (T) R MCCabe 6-1); 41.50 RAN; 50 Gloveng Moon (5th), Lauer Seeks (Hs), 55 Jan Cu, 55th, 6 ten 8, 1%), 3%, %i, 15 P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £1.70 DF: £2.40. CSF; £2.34

3.40 (77 214yrd) 1. SIS GARDIEN (0)
O'Dondrine, 16-1): 2. Teyovulfin (6)
Cochrane, 14-1); 3. Passage Creeping (A
Dely, 16-1), ALSO RAN, 4-1 II-lan RumbusIlour, Whitpeard Melody (68h), 7 Peari
Dawn, 8 Mogm, 9 Chorus Song, 10
Harlequin Wals, 12 Almys Happy (68h), 14
Worldwich Eleie, 20 Time For Tear (5th), 33
Risking, 50 Lincy Of Arabia, 14 ran, 144,
114, 114, 114, bu J Culinan at Ayleshury
Tote, E17, 10: 13 (0), 63 (3), 63 (9), DF:
E99.20 Tito: not won (pool of 5823.27
camed forward to 4.35 at Kempton today)
CSF (18732 Treast 12,584.36 Good
News (7-1) withdrawn, not under orders—
rule 4 applies to all bels, deduct 10p in
pound
4.10 (5f 213xd) 1, IVORYYS GRAB HIRE

pound
4.10 (SI 213;d) 1, IVORY'S GRAB HIRE (Marin Dwyer, 15-1), 2, Sharp Imp (D Hofland, 5-1); 3, Justinianus (R Cochrane, 9-2 tay) ALSO RAN: 5 Crystal Heights, Marengo, 13-2 College Night (401), 6 Gwerpyr, 12 Dende Flyer, 14 Lancashina Legand Ball, 16 Imagalae, 25 Louris Gold; 33 Shemood Ball, Soper Park, 13 cm. 1/si. nk. 2%; 9h.hd. 21 K hory at Radient. Tote: \$20.90; 95 00, 12-20, 52:00. DF: 55:470 The 592-60 CSF 50:078 Typast; 54:10.03 Alber a stewards' inquiry, insulfication
4 40 CSF 50:01 | ANOKATO (Martin Dwyer,

efood

4 40 (SI 59yo) 1, ANOKATO (Mastin Dayer, 9-2): 2, Gold Edge (P P Manohy, 7-1): 3, Nopalen (J D Smith, 5-1), ALSO RAN 7-2 i-fav Eager for Pleace, Nampara Bay, 5 Chloe Nitchle (Stift, 12 Eaton Park, 14 Stock His Dancer, 20 Ecrimoteble Spirit (Stift, 33 Bestellini (app. 10 ran 2; 4) hat 25%, hat, bl. K hody at Redlett. Total C 730, \$1.70, 51.70, Jackpot not won toool of \$15,002.61 carried toward to Kennoton today.

285.6 (81 15yd) 1. SAFFRON LANE (L. Detrot, 6-4 tad); 2. Muthatterruit (D. Harrison, 14-1); 3. Gypsy HBF (S. Drowne, 9-4). ALSO RAM 4 Supreme Angel (4th), 7 Meadath's Desense; (3th), 5 ran. 134, 134, 2, 7, R. Harmon at East Everleigh, Total: 22.00; 51.40, 53.50. DF. \$16.90. CSF. \$18.50. E1.40, E3.50, DP. £16.90, CSF. £18.82, 4.25 (Jim. 61-15yd) 1, Filight MAN (Paul Eddery, 7-4 tax, Richard Evens's resp.; 2, Juchida (B. Doyle, 5-1); 3, Biaquet-de-Bouche (fi Muller, 12-1) ALSO RAN, 7-2 Polystory (Ath), 8 Goodwood Less, 9 Sad Mad Bed, 12 Tasik Chin (6th), 14 Magul, 20 Magrah, 50 Cadhury Castle (Str), 10 ran, 2, 151, 16, 7, 4 (E. Lewin at Epsom. Tote: 270; £1.10, £3.00, £3.90, DF; £4.30, Tric: £5.10 CSF £10, 67, Tricest; £79, Tr. 455. (Low Entre), 18 DNI (£1855), Financial \$45.10 CSF \$10.67. Tricest: \$78,77.

4.55 (Im Seyel) 1, BON GUEST Rechael Modely, 16-1); 2, Chalify Denoer (P Bracky, 14-1); 3, Time Of Night (S Righton, 14-1); 4, Tendari (Victoria Applaby, 20-1); ALSO HAN: 4-1 (av Square Hitle Mas, 9-2 Perang Poly, 7 Spanish Wentor, 8 Push A Venture, 12 Pagetari (SM), Scottish Hero (ur), 14 Prime Perman (SM), Royal Equiy, 16 Alphae Music, Creckerbott, Mutheriz, 20 (Ib. Jab.), 25 Baid Naws, Spair Flyer, 18 ran 2, Ind. nk, 3, nk, 1 Naughton at Epsom. Tota £15.70.

£3.09, £3.40, £7.70, £5.00. DF; £230.60 Thor not won (pool of £390.53 carried forward to 4.30 at Mangton today). CSF: £226 69- Tricast £3.051.41. After a stemeors inputy, areast \$100.00.

Placepot: £176.20. Cuadpot: £59.40.

Nottingham
Going: good
2.25 (im 1/213/d), 1, Hill, FARM BILLES
(A Garit, 25-1); 2, Esperto (G Bardwell, 3-1
tay); 3, Acquittel (T Sprake, 14-1); 4, Fm A
Nut Man (D McKeown, 8-1), ALSO RAN: 6
Rehamb (8th), 8 Captain Marmelacte (6th),
Demond Crown, River Run, 10 Chopin, 12
Roches, 14 Blaze Of Oek, Reum To
Brighton, 16 Guesstimation, Proud Brigedier, 20 Recing Hewk, 25 Junje Fresh,
Santella Katle, 33 Irish Kinsman, 18 Jan. 2,
2, 84, 2, 84; W Brighoutine at Nesscible,
Santella Katle, 33 Irish Kinsman, 18 Jan. 2,
2, 84, 2, 84; W Brighoutine at Nesscible,
Santella Katle, 33 Irish Kinsman, 18 Jan. 2,
2, 84, 2, 84; W Brighoutine at Nesscible,
Santella Katle, 33 Irish Kinsman, 18 Jan. 2,
2, 84, 2, 84; W Brighoutine at Nesscible,
Tote: 229,00; CS-70, C1-60, (229), CS-80,
DF: 236-40 Troc. 2347-10 (part worp, pool of
C268-76 carried formed to 4-35 at Nempton
today) CSF C103-73 Titoast: \$1,112-22,
Bought or 4,200grs.
2,55 (1m 1) 213yd) 1, TRAVELMATE (D
Harrison, S-2 Jan/2; Kornstoone (S Drowne,
14-1); 3, Golden Touch (D Blogs, 5-1); 4,
Riccarton (J Caroll, 4-1), ALSO RAN: 7
Winston, 15-2 MagRe, 14 Runic Symbol
(5th), Sweet Clasaux, 18 Conic Hill, Super
High, Weish Mountain, 20 Sarasoga Red,
The Roundstite, Up in Flames (6th), 33
Renata's Prince, Tomeshenko, 16 Jan. NT.
Heighth of Fame, Lody Godina, 3, 194, 194,
2, 2, 1, 3, 4 Briggel (18 Jaid 7-2 B-batt
200.68
3,25 (8) 15yd) 1, CORNICHE CUEST (A Nottingham

C200.50

C20

6.40 PATIO SELLING HANDICAP SKY

7.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUNS LINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-0: £3,670; 6f) (11) BETTROW R Hannon 9-0 N Adams 2
BLUNDELL LANE A Janes 9-0 W J O'Connor 7

REJUDELL LAME A JAMES 9-0. W 3 O'CONNOT /
CAMPIONE M Tompkins 9-0. D Biggs 3
CELTIC PAGEANT R Alebarsi 9-0. T Cushn 11
DERI Di Mortey 9-0. J Stack 10
DERI DI Mortey 9-0. J Homannar (7) 5
MCHAMMY, J Dunlop 9-0. D 0'Dompkina (3) 1
PARAST G Less 9-0. R Coochrage 6
SKY MICHITIANI G Less 9-0. R Coochrage 6
SKY MICHITIANI G Less 9-0. N Days FIRE GODDESS J 5 Moore 8-9

7.40 ROB & BETTY THOMAS

A Whelan (5) 6
4 115- KOLCULEN LAD 144 (C.D.BF.F.6) P Mixoney 3-8-6
W J D'Cormor 1
5 0-06 PHARACHTS JOY 23 (D.F.) J W Payne 4-9-5 G Hind 8
6 5032 POLLY SIGLISHTLY 7 (B.D.F.6) M Banshard 4-9-3. N Advance 3
7 000-1. DORIA 198 A Picto 4-9-3. A Medischar 9
8 -001 HALF TONE 2 (B.D.F.6) R Flower 5-9-1 T Outon 5
9 0461 BRESHI PARAGON 7 (CD.F.E.5) K Novy 8-8-3
Marrian Dwyer (5) 2

9-2 Kilosilae Lad, Pharach's Joy, 17-2 Dania Flyer, 13-2 Half Took, Bright Paragon, 7-7 Polity Golighty, 8-1 Miljas, Supertoo, 10-1 others.

8.10 HALL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,582: 1m 2f) (8)

1 4153 SMEET SUPPOSM 15 PLCD.5) C Deyer 6-9-11 R Cochrace 5
2 5-16 TRIBAL PEACE 13 (CD.6.5) B Gubly 5-9-8 ... J Stock 6
3 -100 AMADOUR 55 (C.6.) P Allected 1-9-7 ... D O'Donohoe (3) 2
4 10-0 DOUBLE RUSH 16 (CD.8.F.6.) T Mile 5-9-7 ... T Williams 1
5 3-24 WESTESN SOMSTA 18 Lord Harkingdom 4-9-4 ... D Harrison 3
6 5-10 PREEDOM CHARICE 33 (BF.F) J Hile 3-8-9 ... M Adente 4
7 -001 SAMRT 80Y 10 (CD.F.6.) P Cole 3-8-9 ... T Doison 7
8 2002 ENCHANTING EVE 10 (C.6.) C Alled 3-8-8 Mariso Dwysr (3) 8

TRAINERS: L. Camara, 5 winners from 23 runners, 21.7%, M. Stoute, 13 from 51, 21.3%; L. Mediagne Hall, 3 from 15, 20.0%; A. Jarvis, 5 from 26, 19.2%; Lord Hamstepton, 6 from 34, 17.6%; H. Candy, 4 from 25, 16.0%. JOCKEYS: M Duyer, 5 winners Bont 26 rides, 19.2%; J Stack, 4 from 22, 18.2%; R Cocheme, 17 from 96, 17.5%; T Quain, 21 from 157. 13.4%; T Williams, 7 from 53, 13.2%; A McGlione, 9 from 79, 11.4%

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

THUNDERER

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Delrob. 7.30 Going For Broke, 8.00 Dawam Alail. 8.30 Ground Game. 9.00 Ellenbrook, 9.30

UU	EDGBASTON FILLIES HANDICAP
277: 5	ii) (11 runners)
3002	NAPIER STAR 16 (V,CD,G) Mr. N Macauley 4-10-0 S Webster
4043 4-50	CORINCHEJ 16 6 Margarson 3-9-0 M Henry (3) AMDEBA 16 (B,6) A Balley 4-8-13 D Wright
2050	COME TOO MAMMA'S 33 (CD.G) 6 Bravery 3-8-12 A Containe
500/	DELROB 5 (B.CD.F.6) D Haydo Jones 6-8-8 D Holland HI HOH 539 N Littmoden 4-8-5 T G McLauchlin
0040	RIVER ENSIGN 7 W M Brisbourne 4-8-4 R Mallen (5)
5223	LAWSONINA 172 D Show 4-8-?
0.00	DAUGHTER M LAW 7 P R Webber 4-8-0 J Brambill (5)

prospects in the Airlie-Coolmore Irish 1,000 Guineas,

in which Oh Nellie and Daz-

zle, second and third in the

Newmarket equivalent, at-

tempt to pay tribute to their

conqueror, Sleepytime. How-

ever, the suspicion remains

that both fillies may struggle

A better prospect may be Strawberry Roan, a half-

sister to Generous who admit-

tedly remains unproven in this

league. After failing over ten

furlongs in April, she returned

to her best over this trip last

time and will relish every yard

of this demanding test.

to come to hand.

10 O-90 DADSHTER IN LAW / F K WESTER 4-0-0 ... J British (2) z 11 OOO LITTLE PAPOOSE 12 B McMaton 4-7-12. S Righton (7) f 3-1 Detrob, 7-2 Connobili. 4-1 Namer Star, 11-2 Terry's Rose, 7-1 Come Too Mannag's, B-1 Amoeka, 72-1 Lawsimina, 16-1 others.

7.30 TRENT BRIDGE APPRENTICE CI AIMING STAKES (3-Y-0: £1,985: 1m 100yd) (5) 1 5311 GOING FOR BROKE 20 (D.F.G.S) P Hastom 9-4 G Faudante (2) 5
2 04 PHODIGG PRINCESS 16 B MeMatron 8-9 ... 3 Rigition (7) 1
3 20-1 ROYAL ROLLETTE 143 (Y.J.G.) 5 Woods 8-7 ... C Webb (5) 2
4 0610 SHEPATTON ERR. 14 (6) N Lidmoden 8-5 R Mulen (5) 2
5 -063 MADAM LUCY 16 W Haigh 8-3 J Bramhill (3) 3

13-8 Going For Broke, 11-4 Royal Routetie, 11-2 Phoeno Princess, Sheraton Gol Madam Lucy.

8.30 FRANKIE GOES TO EPSOM HANDICAP 1 08-1 CANTON VENTURE 10 (CD.F.G) 5 Woods 5-9-10 ... W Ryun 3 2 42-5 GROUPD GAME 13 RF.F.G.S) D Loder 4-9-9 K Darley 4 3 4603 HELL FARM DANCER 25 (CD.F.G) W M Brisbourie 6-9-3 R Mullen (5) 2 4 3212 GLOW FORLIM 98 (CD.F.G.S) L Montegore Half 6-8-12 4 3212 GLUM FUNDAM SG (COLF,G,S) | Managur Hair S-12 F Lynch (3) 5 5 1261 PREMIER DANCE 23 (COLF,G) D Haydn Jones 10-8-9 P P Murphy (5) 1 11-10 Ground Same, 5-1 Stow Forum. Premier Dance, 11-2 Canton Venture, HBJ Farm Dance;

9,00 LORDS FILLIES SELLING STAKES (2-Y-0: £1,985: 6f) (6)

10-11 Elementook, 3-1 Jack-N-XDly, 7-1 Miss Beveled, 8-1 Rock From The Sun, 16-1 Kaen Lody, Sylvan Chuid. 9.30 OLD TRAFFORD HANDICAP (£2,277; 71) (12)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANKERS: D Loder, 8 winners from 21 namers, 38 1%; L Montague Hall, 3 form 8, 37.5%; M Prescott, 20 from 85, 23.2%; G Bravery, 4 from 18, 22.2%; J Fatishaver, 3 from 16, 18.8%; P Hastam, 30 from 161, 18 6%. JOCKEYS: K Darley, 26 winness from 107 rides, 24.3%, M Romner, 6 from 32, 18.6%, N Mullen, 5 from 29, 17.2%. W Flyan, 5 from 31, 16.1%, G Fauffner, 4 from 25, 16.0%; A Lappon, 9 from 58, 15.5% BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Cartmet: 2.40 Daring Past. 3.45 Tarian Joy. 4.20 Stotametique. Donoaster: 2.20 Octavia Hill 5.20 Aventi Blue Haydock Park: 2.00 Sing With The Band Kempton Park: 2.05 Polished Street Lingifield Park: 6.40 Side Ber Wolverhampton: 7.00 Amoeba

Carl Evans: 4.50 Thank-U-Jim.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM 1,002c. 2111 41 110/07 (11 11 times)
1 5042 BOSTON MAN 17 (B.S.) R Woodhouze 6-11-8 M. A Ritgeraid
2 -124 MUZHAK 15 (D.P.) M Hammond 6-11-8 R Gardtoy
3 4134 ACAJOU BY 10 (D.BF.G.S.) 6 Richards 9-11-0 P Carberry
4 006F ALLERBY 40 Lookiding 9-11-0 Mor 1 Barry (7)
5 0000 CHAN MOVE 9 W Smith 5-11-0 Mor 1 Barry (7)
6 PP4P GARDENIA'S SONE 18P G 4 Hartes 6-11-0 No 1 Barry (7)
7 2R MINTLA YAR 42P 87 Kerry B-11-0 L Wyer
8 00-P MOONLIGHT VENTURE 17 M Wine 5-11-0 P Ninen
10 2000 CRUSSLAW 15 MS X Lamb 5-11-0 Miss S Lamb 5-11-0
10 PPU SPUT THE WIND 42P P Rison 11-10-9 F Leathy (3)
11 34 MR BRUND 10 M Barnes 4-10-5 S Storny
Booton Man, 7-2 Margal, Acapto 40 5-1 Allerby, 12-1 MF Storny
Booton Man, 7-2 Margal, Acapto 40 5-1 Allerby, 12-1 MF Storny 2-1 Boston Man, 7-2 Muzzak, Asapas Ot 5-1 Alterby, 12-1 Air Souno 20-1 Mentuhar Moonlight Venture, 25-7 others

2.45 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES CHASE (£2,193: 2m 110yd) (9)

L. (1931: 2711 7 10/90) (9)

1 F531 (NOW-NO-NO 9 (0,6,5) M Hammond 8-11-7 ... R 6-arithy
2 -RPO ASTRALEON 24 (0,6,6) R Alian 9-11-0 ... B Storey
3 r64- HERBAUST 575 (0,6) Whade 8-11-0 ... R 6-arithy
4 FPU2 XMMARDOME REDGE 9 (7) Nats 5 Boadburne 8-11-0 ... Mr M Bradburne (7)
5 Z24S MOSS PAGEART 15 (8F.6) F Walton 7-11-0 ... T Reed
6 P253 SOVERBIGHS MATCH 8 3 MacLengert 9-11-0 ... P Carberry
7 -425 SPECTRE BROWN 9 F-45cm 7-11-0 ... Mr 13 Barry (7)
9 15PP WAR WHOOP 61 (0,1) Mac L Rassel 5-10-8 ... A Thornton 5-4 know-Ho-Ho, 6-1 Sovereign; Match. 7-1 Most Pageans, Wai Whoop, 6-1 Astrateon, Kingaidine Bhoge, 12-1 Herbaldž, Spectie Brown, 16-1 Aluto Racing.

3.15 LCL PILS LAGER HANDICAP CHASE

2.2.400. 3ff 17 (10)

1. 2304. ROYAL VACATION 24 (C.D.F.G.) G.M. Mobre 8-12-0. J. Calloghan

2. 4024. WHAAT FETTLE 14 (C.D.F.F.G.S.) G.Richards 12-11-1. P. Niven

3. 19-12. TOUGH TEST 10 (C.F.G.S.) Mr. J. Goodletton 7-10-11. B. Storey

4. 1515. SCRABO VIEW 15 (CD.F.G.S.) P. Beautront 9-10-9. R. Storey

5. 2016. SUPPOSIN 21 (C.D.BF.F.G.S.) Hr. S. Somet 9-10-6. R. Goest

6. 29-13. RAINMAY 9 (D.BF.F.G.S.) M. Bernes 7-10-1. A. Thomton

7. 39-32. RUSTY BLADE 9 (G.) P. Montesth 8-10-0. R. Johnson

8. 29-24. MR. REINER 15 (F.G.S.) J. Vach. 2-10-0. Mr. O. McPitcel (7)

9. FIG64. BYBERT TESTINY 9 (CD.S.) J. Golden 6-10-0. Mr. O. McPitcel (7)

10. 2/59. MISCHEVOUS GRU. 15 (F) R. Tale 9-10-0. Mr. S. F. Needfard.

1-1 Touch Test. 9-2 Names 11-2 Wheel Fettle Sundayin 13-2 Food Vacation. 10-

TRANCES: S Kettlewell, 4 seniers from 8 runners 50.0%, J Goldie 5 from 10, 30.0%, L Lunge, 23 from 87, 26.4%; G Richards 20 from 81, 24.7%; G M Moore, 15 from 70 21.4% P Monleith, 10 from 51, 19.6%.

WEDNESDAY: Folkestone (2.20), Newbury (Shy. 5.55), Ripon (Shy. 6.40), Yarmouth (2.10), Castmel (2.00), Herstord (6.30). THURSDAY: Brighton (2.10), Carilsle (2.20), Ultoweter (2.00)

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GOLF: SWEDE WALKING TALL AFTER OPENING ROUND OF PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Karlsson in Wentworth

DETAILS FROM WENTWORTH

By JOHN HOPKINS **GOLF CORRESPONDENT**

IT IS not cheap to move house these days and Robert Karlsson will be grateful for whatever share of the prize-money he can pick up from the Volvo PGA championship this weekend to finance the transportation of his possessions from Richmond, Surrey, down to Monte Carlo. He made a successful start to his money-making quest with a 67, five under par, in the first round at Wentworth yesterday.

The opening day of the European Tour's flagship event was one that perfectly summed up the state of professional golf in Great Britain in 1997. Play was slow, as it so often and too often is, and some rounds lasted nearly five hours. There were complaints from various players about the fierceness of the rough on the left of the 17th. The players do whinge too much and. besides, are they the best judges? I watched 11 competitors drive on this hole. Five kept their drives on the tilting fairway and six missed it by varying margins.

What demonstrated most precisely that this was 1997, was the presence of so many mobile phones. They were everywhere, yet they should be banned from such a pastoral place as a golf course. The most absurd sight of all was of Mark Mouland, who has selected

tone of his telephone - a strange choice for a Weishman - practising on the range by hitting balls with his left hand while gripping his telephone with his right.

None of this worried Karlsson, a Swede, who was out at 7,20 and had finished before midday. He is one of a bunch of players on 67, which includes Bernhard Langer, David Gilford, Andrew Sherborne and lan Woosnam. They are one stroke behind Eamonn Darcy, who represents something of a blast from the past, and Darren Clark, whom many would like to be a substantial figure in the future. Clark is enormously talented but two tournament victories in a sixyear career as a professional do not represent the sort of dividend that was once thought likely from one so

Golf is a game of yards, feet and inches, or metres and centimetres if you prefer it. The distances that matter are the ones a golfer hits a

EARLY LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 66: [

Scotland the Brave as the ringing ball from the tee, not the height he stands on it. In fact, the shorter the better. There have been very few good golfers of more than 6ft 2in. Nick Faldo, who had a 70 yesterday, is another tall man whose height sometimes causes him problems. At 6ft 5in, and willowy with

it, Karlsson has a good build for a rugby or basketball player. "Robert has short arms and a 37in inside leg. These are not the best measurements for a golfer," Simon Holmes, who has coached Karlsson in Europe and Florida since 1992, said. "With that sort of height you have to do a lot to get a consistent swing.

There is a tendency to swing very steeply. We have been working very hard to make his swing shallower. Robert is very talented and a hard worker. He is determined not to fail because of a lack of effort.

When we first started working together we decided that for him to get the ideal position at the address

he needed clubs with shafts that were three and a half inches longer than usual. The manufacturers were not interested in that, so we ended up with clubs that are two inches longer than standard."

Karlsson had five birdies, taking advantage of the help he was given by the wind on the 9th and the 12th to birdie those two holes as well as the 6th, 11th and 14th before turning into the breeze as he played the last two holes. "It was my magic putter," Karlsson said. "That is what did it."

If Karlsson's putter was magic, how does one describe Paul Broadhurst's? He had 25 putts, six fewer than Karlsson, yet went round in 72, five strokes more. Unusual as that was, then what words are needed to describe Dean Robertson's round? Erratic, unsteady, up and down, inconsistent? Against a par of 4, 3, 4, 5, 3, Robertson started 2, 5, 4, 3, 2 — or eagle, double bogey, par, eagle, birdie.

Robertson hit a five-iron into the hole from 185 yards at the 1st; a five-iron to five feet at the 4th and a fiveiron to seven feet at the 5th. On the short second he hit what he thought was a good stroke with a seveniron, only for the ball to soar over the back of the green. "I'm going to sleep with my five-iron tonight," Robertson said. "As for my putter, that will be dumped."



Burton inspired by Woods defeat

By Patricia Davies

KIM ROSTRON, from Lancashire, will play Kate Burton, of Surrey and Florida State University, in the final of the English women's amateur championship at Saunton this morning.

Rostron, an England international, who has added 20 yards to her drives since acquiring a Mizuno T-Zoid driver d la Faldo and spending the winter in the gym, will be the favourite, but Burton's confidence, on the course where she played her first full round of golf as a 12 year old on holiday with the family she scored 140 — is blossoming.

blossoming.
She has also been inspired by the example of Gary Wolstenholme, conqueror of one Tiger Woods in the Walker Cup at Royal Porthcawl two years ago, Burton caddied for olme bere last Sunday, when he scored 68 in the final round of the Brahazon Trophy, and she said: "He was hitting long irons and woods so close to the pin that it made me think that I should be able to hit it close, whether I was using a seven-iron or a five-wood."

Vitally, Burton's chipping and putting have been in good shape this week and she drew confidence from being four under par — the best golf of her life, she felt, and exactly half the total she posted on that childhood debut - when

she beat Caroline Grady, who was two under, in the first Yesterday, on a chilly, for-

bidding morning. Burton defeated Georgina Simpson, of Yorkshire, and, in the afternoon, when conditions were brighter but still breezy. Burton, a bespectacled blonde from St George's Hill, always had the edge against Kerry Smith, from Waterlooville. Smith, the English intermediate champion in 1995, had had her moment of glory when she recovered from two down after two holes to beat Karen Stupples, the Curtis Cup player from Royal Cinque Ports, at the 16th.

In the quarter-finals. Rostron, a perky Lancastrian, had run away from Kate Egford by winning four holes in a row from the 11th and, in the afternoon, she kept running. She was four up after six against Ratcliffe, who could never quite get back on level terms. Ratcliffe clawed her way back to one down after 14 holes, but lost the 15th to a superb birdie four and, although she won the 17th with a birdie two, Rostron made par at the last to win.

RESULTS: Cuarter-finels: E Ratcliffe (Sandiway) bit R Hudson (Wheatley) 5 and 4; K Roston (Citinanoe) bit K Egitord (Wilpshire) 5 and 4; K Smith (Waterlooville) bit K Stupples (Royal Cinque Ports) 3 and 2; K: Burton (St George's Hill) bit G Simpson (Cleditheaton and District) 2 and 1; Seroi-finalis: Rostron bit Ratcliffe 1 hole; Burton bit Smith 3 and 1.

Today

CRICKET

aco Trophy one-day international 10.45, 50 overs THE OVAL: England v Australia

Britannic Assurance county chempionship 11.0, Stell day of four, 96 overs minimum CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Wordestarshire CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Hampshire GLOUCESTER: Gloucestarshire v

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Dethyshire TAUNTON: Somerset v Yorkshire HORSHAM: Sussex v Kent EDGBASTON: Warelcharine v

FOOTBALL International match England v South Africa (at Old Trefford, 6.0)

thempton v Sweness (at Wembley, 3.0) ... Tennents Scottish Cup irk v Klimamock (et Torox Stedium, Glesgow, 3.0)

HOCKEY WOMEN'S RETERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland V United States for National States for National

RUGBY LEAGUE -BNPL-CLIP: National jurior play-off finals: Under-16: Outon v Stamingley (11.45). Under-16: Linich East v West Hall (1.16). National Carr. Final: Ducley Hill v Electroscoph (3.30) (alt at Sallord). ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Hall Kingston Rovers v Leads.

RUGBY UNION

Toor metches Busace Aires v England XV (in Buenbs Aires, 7.50)... Eastern Province Invitation XV v British Isles XV (in Port Elizabeth, 2.18)...

Serryo Clup

Wasps v World XV (et Twickenhern, 3.0) . OTHER SPORT BADMENTON: World chempionships for

GOLF: Yoke PGA championship (at Went-worth; St Andrews Links Trophy.
SPEEDWAY: Ette League: Bradford v Swindon (7.30); Coverty v Peterborough (7.30); Eastbourne v Balle Vue (7.30); Premier League: Stole v Arena Essex (7.30). Premier League Cup: Berwick v Hull (7.0) Amateus: League Cup: Berwick v Ipswech and Ring's Lynn (8.0).
TENNIS: WTA world doubles cup (in Edinburoth).

E ESTATURES:

Tomorrow

Texaco Trophy one-day internations LORD'S: England v Australia Axia Life Leegue CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v

CRICKET

Worcestershire CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Hampshire GLOUCESTER: Gloucestershire v OLD TRAFFORD; Lancashira v ULD TRAFFORD: Lancashre v
Northamptonshire
LECESTER: Leleastershire v Surrey
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v
Derbijshire
TAUNTON: Someoset v Yorkshire
HORSHAM: Sussex v Kent
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v
Middlesex

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP first day of each Asiann: Cumbria v Bedford-stries - Sidmouth: Devon v Weles. Starborne: Dorset v Herefordshire Sleeford: Drochmike v Herifordshire, Challow and Childrey, Oxfordshire v Berkshire.

FOOTBALL Nationwide League Second division play-offs Final

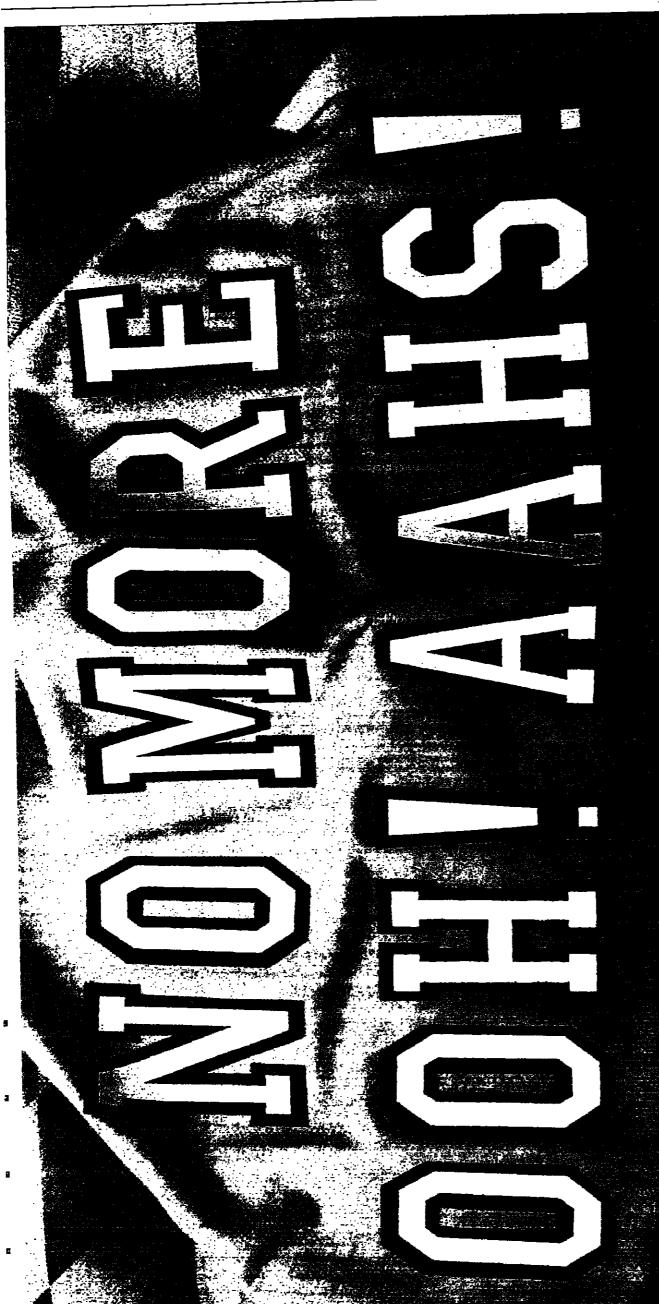
Brentford v Crewe (at Warnbley, 3.0) ____

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v. Urtied States (at National States), International Match: States (at National States), Plate: Repair Hightown v. Catton (230). Plate: Final: Hightown v. Catton (230). Plate: Final: Driffield v. Poyraton (100). Under-15 Cup: Final: Harleston Magnies v. Queensuood School (12.0) (el et National States), Wilton Kaynas), SLANDERS INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (et Alexandra, Park, Potsmouth, 10.0).

OTHER SPORT Glasgow) _ CYCLING: Swan Velo 100 miles (at Didoot,

CYCLING: Swan Veto 100 miles (at Dictor), ferm).
ECUESTRIANISM: Window Horse Trials.
GCUE: Votvo PGA chemicronship (at Wentworth); St Andrews Lates Trophy; SPEEDWAY; Individual: Bob Jones Memorial Trophy (at Swandon, 6.0), Premier League: Geogray of Arena Essex (6.30), Newport. v Sauffeld: (2.30), Oxford v Edinburgh (7.30), Premier League: Cup: Newcarde v Berwick (6.30), Amsteur League: Lathallan v Iosevich- and King's Lynn (2.30); Middenhal v Long Eaton and Wickerhampton (3.30); Oxford v Berwick (6.0).





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Anti-Perspirant for Men is smooth upfront and strong in defence. It won't sting your skin, but it will give perspiration the runaround. So if your anti-perspirant doesn't have this ability, it's time for a transfer.

TOUGH ON **YOUR SKIN** FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE MAY PROVE DECISIVE AS SIX CLUBS PREPARE FOR PERILS OF THE PLAY-OFFS

Palace steeled by Wembley ordeal

By Russell Kempson

WEMBLEY'S annual three-day festival of joy and anguish - more commonly known as the Football League play-off finals - gets under way this afternoon, when Northampton Town take on Swansea City to decide who will progress from the third division. Tomorrow, it is the turn of Brentford and Crewe Alexandra, from the second division, to face trial by torture: on Monday, Crystal Palace vie with Sheffield United for the honour of leaving the first division and entering the promised

land of the FA Carling Premiership.

For the officials, players and supporters of the clubs concerned, it is a weekend of either undiluted pain or immeasurable essasy. For the neutral, though, it is often an intriguing spectacle that has comfortably retained its appeal since being introduced seven years ago. Watching footballer civilion ing footballers giving everything, in an effort to determine their immedicertain ghoulish fascination.

Palace, more than most, can testify to the feeling of all-embracing emptiness after defeat in a Wembley playoff. Only last year, they were beaten 2-1 by Leicester City in the final minute of extra time, with Steve Claridge scoring the decisive goal. "I can remember it well, but it's

still difficult to describe your real emotions," Andy Roberts, who scored Palace's goal, said. I felt like a lost soul afterwards. I didn't know what to do or where to go. I just hope it will have benefited us. Perhaps it will help us this time around."

Andy Linighan, the Palace central defender, has fonder memories. On his last visit to the stadium, in 1993, he scored the winning goal for Arsenal in their FA Cup Final replay against Sheffield Wednesday.

"I've been to Wembley five or six times and been on the losing side only once," Linighan, 35, said yesterday. "It's obviously been a lucky

on the manager who

came back for more

teve Coppell," said

Ray Lewington, the Crystal Palace coach.

"is a very easy-going man," and watching Coppell, the

Palace manager, enjoying himself on the broad green

acres of their Mitcham train-

ing ground, it was easy to

Easy to forget that, only six

months ago, a dejected Coppell had quit Manchester

City in mid-stream, unable to

resist the pressures of the job

Now, back for his second spell as manager of Crystal Palace, he and his team shape up for

their Nationwide League first

division play-off final against

Sheffield United at Wembley

Last season, Palace fell at

this final hundle. Now, they

face a Sheffield United team

that has beaten them twice in

the league, the second time, at

Bramall Lane, by a resound-

ing 3-0.
Ten months of misery,

Coppell has said it would be,

were Palace to climb back into

the FA Carling Premiership.

Smiling now, he said: "It was

a flippant remark," but it

reflected "my last season in

charge, when we were relegat-

ed. That was the hardest 12

on Monday.

PLAY-OFFS

TODAY: Third division Northampton Town v Swansea City

place and I hope it continues. Scoring the winning goal in a Cup Final is very nice, because it's always going to be in the history books, but this is the present and Monday is the only thing on my mind.

"To get back into the Premiership would be a bonus for me at this stage in my career. I've got two more seasons left on my contract and that would be the ideal way for me to

Palace finished in sixth place at the end of the regulation season, two points adrift of Sheffield United, but played impressively in knocking out Wolverhampton Wanderers, who were third, 43 on aggregate in the composure could again give them the edge on Monday.

United's preparations have been hampered by the loss of Chris Short. their defender, who twisted an ankle in a freak fall during training. However, Jan Aage Fjortoft, their Norway striker, remains confident as long as his team-mates do not

become distracted by the occasion.

"To be honest, I don't like all this fuss about playing at Wembley," Fjortoft said. "For this type of game, it doesn't matter where you play. It's secondary to what you want to achieve. We want to get into the Premiership and it doesn't matter where we play, be it the Isle of Man or the north of Scotland. Hopefully, the rest of the players will understand that."

A touch disrespectful, perhaps, and a view unlikely to be shared by Northampton, who will be making their first appearance at Wembley. The club, which is also celebrating its allocation of 35,000 tickets.

"It's surprised me a little bit." Rav Warburton, the Northampton captain, said. "Maybe I shouldn't have been because we've taken 600 fans to places like Carlisle and Hartlepool on a Tuesday night. I hope they all have a good day because they thoroughly deserve it. They've been the best in the division for years.

"I think it will be a fair old game. It will be very tight and maybe just one goal will be enough. Wembley is supposed to be a very tiring pitch so it'll be the fitter side that will come out on top in the later stages. Hopefully, that will be us."

Brentford, if successful against Crewe, will consider a flotation on the stock market to help them in the first division. "When the club was promoted the last time, it wasn't geared to cope with it," Dave Webb, the manager, said. "What we're trying to do is organise the club so that if we do go up, it can cope."

MOTOR RACING

Williams go back to their Spanish roots

From Andrew Longmore in barcelona

THE name of Patrick Neve will barely raise a footnote in the history of the Williams grand prix team. Neve, a Belgian, looked like Alain Prost, but did not drive like him and disappeared quickly from view, just another For-mula One driver whose ambitions outstripped his talent. Yet he should be remembered this weekend in Barcelona.

At the Spanish Grand Prix in May 1977, Neve started a humble 22nd on the grid in a red-and-white March advertising Belle Vue and the No 27. The car was bought secondhand for £14,000 and the tyres were a job lot from motor racing's equivalent of Hal-fords. Mario Andretti won, Neve nursed his ailing March to twelfth, four laps adrift, and the birth of the most successful grand prix team of modern rimes was complete.

Twenty years, 98 grands prix victories and a billion sponsorship dollars later, Williams will tackle the Spanish Grand Prix with all the confidence of a team used to playing the hare. There was a casual arrogance about their work in untimed practice yesterday, which was probably not bluff. Jacques Villeneuve ended the two sessions second. behind Jean Alesi, and Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who barely turned a wheel until halfway through the afternoon, ended the day twelfth. It would be a huge surprise if the Williams pair did not occupy the front row of the grid by the end of qualifying today.

Back in 1977, such dominance was way beyond the thoughts of Frank Williams and his sidekick, Patrick Head. The team had no home, no car and no money. They were not even members of the Formula One Constructors' Association. However, with some help from Neve, who had some sponsorship money behind him, and Saudia Airlines — the sponsors who later transformed the fledgeling team into world champions = Williams Grand Prix Engineering (WGPE) began to do £180,000, a figure that would just about cover a day's expenses now. Unit 10. Station Road, Didcot was commandeered as headquarters. though the initial entry was hardly auspicious.

"We didn't have a key for some reason." Head said. "so we broke in. The floor was filthy, there was nothing there, no machinery, no equipment, no telephones, nothing." At their first race, in Jarama, the forerunner of the Circuit de Catalunya, the team made an immediate impact. The Williams team truck reversed smartly into the brand new Wolf motorhome.

'At each circuit, we sented a linle caravan as our motorhome." Head said. "We were running on a shoestring, but we were spending absolutely nothing, staying on cheap deals in cheap hotels. Every penny was spent on the car. The challenge then was to keep it simple, but that wasn't hard. We had a simple aim survival and progress - not that different from now,"

The number of employees has risen from eight to 250, but the principles of WGPE have held good down the past two decades. While a host of teams have come and gone. Williams have risen and prospered.

The blip at rain-hit Monaco fast becoming an unwanted tradition at Williams, gave the rest hope, brought another glimpse of fragility in the team's tactical thinking. In reality, the decision to run both cars on slick tyres just spoke of the need for a new team weather forecaster. There are not many other discernible weaknesses in the Williams armoury. The most pertinent question is which of their two drivers will occupy pole here.

It will not be Damon Hill, the world champion. Hill, who has yet to complete a race this season in the Arrows. completed 31 laps in the untimed session and was docked one of his 12 qualifying laps today as a penalty. The maximum allocation of laps on the opening day is 30. Not that the extra time did him much good. He ended the afternoon session in twentieth place, with only Pedro Diniz, his team-mate, and Jan Trulli,

in the Minardi, slower. It seems a long time since Hill, in his Williams, won the Formula One drivers' title, longer still since those hand-Williams and Head will be looking back. "When we're both very old, we might sit back and reminisce a little, but I mean seriously old," Head said. Of Neve, little trace remains. "He was ouiet and very difficult to remember." Head said.

Williams have made a rather more lasting impression.

Coppell happy to test survival techniques **BRIAN GLANVILLE**



By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JIMMY HILL the Pullarin chairman, resigned yesterday, only six weeks after the club had clinched promotion into the Nationwide League second division. He wants to spend more time with his family.

Hill, 70, also renowned for his work as a football panelist on BBC television, felt the time was appropriate after the club had finally won its fight to stay at Craven Cottage. It will secure the freehold of the ground at the end of the

"It is a new chapter in the story of this unique club, the end of an era," he said. "I need freedom from responsibility. finance, performance and salvation but I have no worries, no responsibilities and no regrets, which is a very nice position to be in.

'I've had ten years and the club has progressed, not so much on the field because we've only just got back to the second division, which is: where we started. But we will now own our ground, for the first time in 20 years, and that will give us great stability for

future progress." Eric Cantona is to play again, only a week after announcing his retirement. Cantona will turn out tomorrow in a testimonial match in Lille. France, for Stephane and Pascal Plancoue.

Manchester United have raised no objection. "It is not a problem because it is a testimonial," Ken Ramsden, the United assistant secretary, said yesterday. "We still still retain Eric's registration and mission if we see fit. In this case, though, everything is

Roy Hodgson, the Internazionale manager, has confirmed his decision to resign from the Serie A club earlier than he had originally planned. He was due to leave at the end of the season, to join Blackburn Rovers, but after criticism in the wake of Inter's defeat against Schalke 04 in forward his departure.





Coppell is looking ahead to the chance of a return to the Premiership with Palace. Photograph: Julian Herbert

offered the job. "It's on my passport," he said. "I am a manager, and that's what I

consider my profession to be." The grim weeks at Manchester City have clearly been consigned to memory. 'I've said'all I want to say on that subject," he said. "Everything worked out for the best for Manchester City. It's worked out best for me. Everybody's happy. To drag up the past is no benefit to anybody.

Palace, at least, is familiar

months I've spent. Looking at rent pressures. There were no the opposition. Thinking, problems, says Lewington, we're in with a one in eight, when Coppell returned to Selhurst Park. "I think the fact one in ten chance". Though he described himthat Steve was there anyway self, cheerfully, as "caretaker in an administrative role manager, question mark," it is made the transition fairly easy," he said. "The players clear that he means to carry on and, win or lose on knew Steve from a year back. Monday, he is likely to be and he had been going into

the training ground. They all knew him, and he didn t have the problems of a new manager, coming in to stamp his authority. Steve's a very easygoing man, and I think the lads have taken to him. because he came in at a very difficult time.

T e would say, as he's only 14 or 15 games modest, there were to go. In fact, we've been going through a bit of a wobble. I think he's done very well in what could have been

ground, whatever the recura difficult situation." So what of Coppell's "flippant" remark about those ten months? "I think," Lewington said, "he's probably referring to the fact that those teams go up to survive, and nothing else; and quite a fair few have come down, including us, of course. He knows when we go

up, and if we go up, then we'll need strengthening; no doubt."

Coppell, indeed, is well aware of what awaits should Palace prevail. He is a supporter of the play-offs. "Half the table have a prospect of being in the play-offs." he said. "I'm all for them.

"At the end of ten or 11 months, we now find ourselves with 90 minutes to decide our future -- whether we have to cut our coat according to our cloth and spend another long and arduous year in the first division.

"Whoever wins on Monday will be guaranteed favourites to come straight down. I always think it's better to be there, in the Premiership, even for one year. You gain financially, your players become better players, even for being in it for one season."

He seems philosophical. rather than tense, as one who has been through the fire and may now well be fireproof. "We're not thinking we have to win this because." he said "We just want to win it. I think it was tougher this year than last year. You look at the financial clout of the three teams going down and you think that, next year, it will be

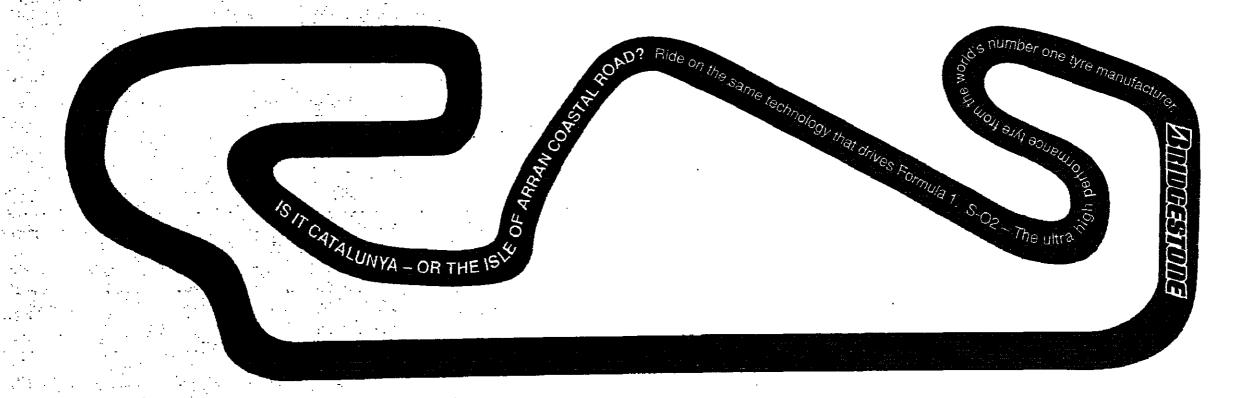
hard to surpass them." He will not be thinking, as he sits on the bench, about the way that his own playing career with England and Manchester United was ended at Wembley when a Hungarian kicked him on the knee. "I'm just glad to get another opportunity to be there," he said.

Meanwhile, "the only thing I dream about is a nice round of golf and a couple of pints of lager afterwards".

DETAILS FROM BARCELONA

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, J Alesa (Fr. Benetton-Renault), truth 19 565sec: 2, J Villenewe (Can Williams-Renault) 1 19,765, 3, R Schumacher (Ger. Jordan-Peugeot) 1:20 198; 4 G Fischella (II. Jordan-Peugeot) 1:20 537 5, G Berger (Austria Benetion-Renault) 1:20 933, 6, D Coulthard (GR, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:21 312, 7, M Schumacher (Ger. Fenan) 1:21,319, 8, J Histhert (GR, Sauber) 1:21 379, 9, M Halkunen (Fin. McLaren-Mercedes) 1:21 421, 10, E twine (GR, Fenan) 1:21 423, 11, O Pans (Fr. Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:21 636; 12 H-H Frentzen (Ger. Williams-Renault) 1:21 837, 13, J Megnussen (Den. Stewart-Ford) 1:22 849, 15, U katsyama (Jepan, Minard-Hari) 1:22,392, 16, S Naleino (Jepan, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:23 191, 17, J Verst-appen (Holf, Tyrrel-Ford) 1:23 226, 19, G Morbidelli (II. Sauber) 1:23 451, 20, D Hill (GR, Arrows-Yarnaha) 1:23 526, 21, J Ontal (Gr. Fordan-Hari) 1:25 049, 22, J Trulli (II. Minard-Hari) 1:25 064

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (alter five races) Drivers: 1, M Schumacher 24pis. 2, Villeneuve 20, 3, Indine 14, equal 4, Coutthard, Frentzon, Berger and Hakkinen 10, 8, Panis 9, 9, Barnchello 6, equal 10, R Schumecher and Ficicholla 4, equal 12, Herbert and Alesi 3, 14, Salo 2, 15, Lanni 1, Constructors: 1, Ferran 36pts. 2, Williams-Renault 30, 3, McLaren-Mercedes 20, 4, Benetton-Fierault 13, 5, Prost Mugen-Honda 9; 6, Jordan-Peugeot 7; 7, Stevant-Ford 6, 8, Sauber-Petronas 4, 9, Tyrrell-Ford 2 GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Spanish (Barcetoria) June 15: Canadian (Montreal) June 29: French (Megny-Cours) July 13: British (Stiverstore) July 27: German (Hockenheim) Aug 10: Hungarien (Hungarien) Sept 24: Began (Spa-Francorchamps) Sept 7: Italian (Monto). Sept 21: Austrian (A-1 British Sept 28: Luvembourg (Nürburgiring) Oct 12: Japanesse (Suzuka) Oct 26: European (Heaz)



Smith seeks chance to rescue battered reputation



obin Smith sat in a quiet corner of the players dining Roomer of the players' dining area at Cardiff yesterday and presented the case for his own defence. On the other side of the misty windows, steady rain was depriving him of the opportunity to convert his unbeaten SI into the

52nd hundred of his career. The conditions allowed him time to think, reflect, and plan for the summer ahead. The day before, Smith was transfixed by the television as England completed their emphatic win over Australia at Headingley. This might have filled him with anger, jealousy even, a year ago. Now, the prevailing

career is not confined to the county treadmill, and if the call from the selectors is not made in the present series, then he believes that he would be a good "pick" for the winter tour of the West Indies.

حكدا من الاصل

Smith made the last of his 62 Test appearances against South Africa 16 months ago. He was the top-scorer in the first innings, and followed that by making 75 and 25 in his two appearances in the World Cup, after recovering from injury. At no time has he received an official explanation for his omission since.

"I have never been one who is deliberately controversial, but now I can say that I was amazed at my exclusion last year." Smith said. "I am not unhappy in any way now.

Richard Hobson meets a discarded England player who is fighting for a future at Test level

and I must stress that, although I might be shooting myself in the foot by saying this, I think the selectors are right to stick with a settled side. even if I am not in it.

The batsmen all did well over the winter and deserve a chance. In the past, the selectors have chopped and changed so much there has been no team spirit or confidence."

It does not take much for Smith to lose his own self-belief. His diffidence generally surprises those who meet him for the first time and expect his character to be an extension of his ebullient batting. His unease leaps to the fore even after presenting statistical evidence to repel the notion that he is vulnerable against spin bowling.

He said: "Every time a spinner comes on, I feel a little nervous. I am so worried that he will get me out because I know what will be said and written, even though I know I am capable of dealing with him.

Shane Warne got me out three times in the 1993 series, but he is the best bowler I have ever faced, and practically every other batsman in the world has struggled against him. A middle order batsman will not have my average in Test cricket [more than 43] if he could not play spin. My figures against India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are better than those against the West Indies, who have a pace-orientated attack. Unfortunately, there is a stigma about me and spin bowlers which has caused lots of worry and

heartache." Clearly, he would relish the opportunity to take on Warne again, but appreciates that the situation will arise only if he scores enough runs for Hampshire. Though admit-ting that he misses the big crowds, he says that he has never found. motivation a problem.

1,300 runs at an average approaching 50, and, after his first winter away from the game for 16 years, feels empowered to do better still. "I still have that big desire to play for England; I just hope that I am given the chance," he said.

While his reputation, unjust or not, may restrain the selectors from recalling him against Australiam it could tempt them to chose him in the Caribbean. Peter Willey and Wayne Larkins were recalled for series in the West Indies because of their ability to cope with fast bowlers. Here, Smith's ability goes unquestioned whatever the statistics suggest. Appearances, after all, can be

Kent's last-wicket pair leave Sussex in state of shock

HORSHAM (third day of four): Sussex, with nine second-innings wickers in hand. are 391 runs behind Kent

THIS was emphatically not a day that Sussex will wish to remember. It began happily enough for them with a steady erosion of Kent's second in-nings, so that Kent were limited to a lead of 178 with only two wickets remaining the clock standing at (1.40am when the eighth wicket fell. Then came Strang to join Marsh and these two added 60. Then came Phillips, and it was 5.22pm before the final wicket was taken.

In adding 183 for the last wicker, Marsh and Phillips beat the previous highest lastwicket stand for Kent against Sussex by 94 runs. This had been set by R. T. Thornton and A. Hearne in 1886, when Gladstone was Prime Minister. By the time Marsh left the field. with 142 against his name, he had batted for little short of five hours, his partnership with Phillips had lasted for nearly 34 hours and Sussex could be forgiven if, by then, they thought that Prince

Charles had succeeded to the throne. This was Marsh's ninth

century and his highest score for Kent. It is doubtful if he will make a more useful one. As for Phillips, well, he has had a bumper match: a careerbest haul in the first Sussex innings with five wickets and now the first half-century of what promises to be a worthy few years in Kent's cause.

Thanks to these two, Sussex were set the monumental task of scoring 422 to win; or, put another way, a day and 16



Marsh: ninth century

Russell's defiance inspires recovery

By Rupert Cox

GLOUCESTER (third day of four): Essex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 154 runs behind Glouces-

IT IS, no doubt, a surprise to all but their most ardent followers that Gloucestershire head the championship table. even at this early stage. Having been plunged into disarray hy a rampant Essex seam attack on Thursday evening in hospitable bowling conditions, they exhibited the sort of resilience more associated with leaders than

also-rans yesterday. Gloucestershire recovered from 84 for seven to 290 with a typically obdurate 91 not out. in 188 balls, from Jack Russell. This is the continuation of an extraordinary run of batting form for Russell in which he has scored 50-plus in nine of his past II champion-

ship innings. Russell's first-class scores this season make impressive reading: 57, 66, 59 and now 91 not out, testament not only to his consistency but also to his desire to recapture his Test place, and with it a fiftieth cap. It would come at a cost. though, as his beloved sunhat would presumably contravene directives from the England and Wales Cricket

Board. Resuming in yet more overcast and chilly environs, a score of 130 on what had proved to be a capricious pitch looked beyond Gloucestershire, but with the surface pacified by a dry night and an

older ball, they were galvanised by Russell's inherent stickability, while Essex struggled to recapture the control and verve so apparent the previous evening.

In Tim Hancock, Russell found a worthy ally. Initially. runs had to be prised out, but gradually, as the pitch eased. hatting became more fluent. Hancock, demoted this season to bolster the batting after the all-rounders, mixed spells of playing and missing with some handsome off-side strokeplay, allowing Gloucestershire to reach lunch unscathed at 173 for seven.

Having survived a straightforward chance to Prichard in the gully. Hancock soon clipped Cowan to square leg after a stand of 108 in 45 overs. but in Ball and Russell the home team maintained their recovery with a ninth-wicket stand of 98. Danny Law polished off the innings, in successive balls, to leave Russell nine short of a seventh first-class century, and Gloucestershire with two unlikely batting points.

Essex also lahoured against the new-ball bowling of the Tasmanian. Shaun Young. and Mike Smith, who swung the ball viciously. Prichard. caught in the crease, was palpably leg-before. Hussain waited meekly and Gooch left disconsolately when adjudged in front. It gave Stuart Law the chance to emphasise his quality with a fine 77-hall half-century, consigning the match, in all probability, to a

overs to endure for a draw. They lost Radford to a fine, diving catch by that man Marsh, but survived the rest of the day. It is some consolation that, in 1991, Sussex made 436 in the last innings to tie with Kent, but not much.

Although the pitch had clearly lost some of its pace. there was no early hint of the extraordinary events to follow. Fleming hit Robinson for three fours in an over before holing out at long leg: Cowdrey was caught off bat and pad at short leg, after playing pretty well in an innings that had altogether spanned 93 balls.

Then McCague was caught at slip by Greenfield, after second slip had knocked up the ball. This gave Drakes his second wicket of the morning and, in all, three Kent wickets had fallen in 11 balls. Enter Strang to join Marsh in a stubborn defensively-minded stand that gradually caused a shifting of the balance between bat and ball. Strang played straight and Marsh did most of the scoring, but it was a long time before Sussex cottoned on to the fact that this was more than a little local

Marsh and Strang added 60 for the ninth wicket before Strang was well taken, low down at first slip. Still Sussex must have thought they had matters reasonably in hand, even though Phillips looked ominously comfortable, but, after he had batted through 20 overs. Phillips was spilt at short square leg, soon after the second new ball had been taken and with the score on

299 for nine. Five overs later, Marsh was missed at long leg. A six resulted and the record books were out, just in case. By now, Sussex had, as they say, lost it. Phillips's 50 and Marsh's cenfollowed hard on the heels of each other. Tea was delayed by half an hour and when, shortly after the inter-val. Marsh skied to midwicket. Sussex were reeling in the face of the highest lastwicket stand ever recorded

against them. Marsh, who had reached his century with his ninth four, besides hitting two vastsixes, had a truly mamellous day, both as captain coura-geous and as a batsman who mixed stout defence with welltimed aggression.

Phillips, his jast-wicket partner, used his reach to great effect, displayed an immensely wide, straight but, and, in the later stages of his innings. showed a considerable penchant for the extra cover drive. Altogether, thanks to these two, it was a remarkable day's

It was said by one observer that the pitch died at moon and there is something in that Certainly, the pitch has grown blander as the game has progressed; but, in a game of many twists and turns, it would be a brave man who now set Sussex's chances at 1 better than a draw.



Middlesex youngsters assume control

the supporting role as Molfat,

24. a South African-born all-

rounder; who went to school

in Elstree and reached Lord's

via Hertfordshire, boldly took

BY DEREK HODGSON

EDGBASTON (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine hand, lead Warwickshire by

ALLAN DONALD, South Africa's senior bowler, and Jacques Kallis, that country's rising star, dined out on Thursday evening. Kallis did not appear yesterday, while Donald bowled six overs in the morning, looking out of sorts, and then retired. Both have stomach unsets, but Donald was able to bowl again last evening with his usual fire as Middlesex fought to retain

With 150 overs lost on the first two days, something dramatic was required to set this match alight. Warwickshire

needed Donald to effect a quick dismissal of the Middlesex tail and Mike Gatting would have liked Kallis's bowling as an extra option. In the event, the day belonged to the young men of Middlesex, who, from an unlikely position of 97 for five on Thursday, carried their county into com-

mand.

Scott Moffat and James Hewitt, the overnight eighthwicket pair, resumed in unfamiliar hazy sunshine and before a crowd that included one man who had travelled from Northumberland to see this fixture. By mid-afternoon, the sun had broken through and the cricket, after two moribund days, came to life. People even stopped talking about England's win at Headingley. Hewitt was content to play

boundaries off Warwickshire's seam bowlers. He is a compact player and if he can bowl off-breaks as well as he can bat, he will be a very useful recruit. The pair had added 53 in 24 frustrating overs for Warwickshire when Moffat waved ambitiously and was caught behind. He struck seven fours off the 133 balls that he faced in his career-best innings of 47. Hewitt, left with Fraser and

Tufnell for partners, must have known his days were numbered even before he was run out by Hemp's fast, accurate throw from cover and the innings closed shortly before lunch with extras — all 51 of

them - a vital contributor to the Middlesex score.

Warwickshire's first shock came four overs after lunch when Moles, the captain, lost his middle stump to the longstriding Johnson, the first indication that a drying sur-face had not lost all itsmischief.

Gatting, intrigued, rang the changes with his bowling, but was denied a further breach by Hemp. The former Glamorgan left-hander makes an unusual No.3; he played and missed twice at Fraser before driving, cutting and pulling eight fours in scoring 37 off 38 balls. Then he went on the back foot to try to force the ball away and was leg-before. It brought whoops from some of the normally somnolent postlunch crowd.

Immediately, Gatting post-

ed a silly mid-on and a short leg for Tufnell and was rewarded with Wasim's wicket as the opener went back and was caught behind. Warwickshire then went from a wobble into a dive as Hewitt, from the Pavilion End. where Brown had been so effective, broke up tne middle.

Two fine, low catches at second slip accounted for Penney and Brown, while Ostler's hopes of a leading a raily were ended when he went to pull Hewitt and played on. Neil Smith, a capable last-ditcher, lasted until just after tea before playing tamely to cover and it was the unlikely pair of Mo Sheikh and Tony Frost, to cheers that turned from the ironic to the congratulatory, who added a brave 35 before Donald ran out Sheikh.

Injuries leave Nottinghamshire uphill task

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with five second innings wickets in hand, need 123 runs to beat Derbyshire

IN SPITE of bowling out Derbyshire for only 117 yesterday. Nottinghamshire were left with too much to do. A total of 245 to win might just have been feasible, even on this pitch. had not both their openers been injured and a further specialist batsman gone to hospital for an X-ray. Only Kevin Evans, who made 47, batted with any authority. and he was out shortly before the close.

Poor Nottinghamshire. In addition to being without Robinson and Pollard, who have a fractured hand and

they had to contend with Dowman retiring after he was hit on his right elbow by Harris. He intended returning if required to bat - and, for that matter, either of the two openers could occupy an end one-handed. Their's was securingly a notional chance

of victory.

Although Robinson suffered his injury when fielding, the state of the pitch was such that every batsman could have done with some hexalite to pad their gloves. In addition, Nottinghamshire did not bat well. The captain was run out and others played erroneous shots outside off stump.

It did not take Malcolm long to have Metcalfe, who onened with Dowman caught at second slip. After Dowman had gone off, having tried to much as he anticipated, Johnson was run out seeking a single that was never apparent. Looking to take a run from a shot steered to cover point's left, he set off tentatively, awaiting his partner's call.



Bowen: 11 wickets

By the time he was into his stride, Harris had thrown down the stumps at the umpire's end.

Usman Afzaal was taken at the wicket off Dean and, when Archer went the same way off Malcolm directly after tea. Nottinghamshire were effectively 43 for six. Evans, however, proved to be in cussed mood, as if intent that the four wickets he took earlier in the day should not be squandered. He put on 60 in 22 overs with Noon, looking. if nothing else, to take the match into a fourth day.

If Nottinghamshire had not conceded quite so many extras on the first two days, they might just have had a chance victory. Bowen took a further three wickets yesterday, giving him match figures of Il for 109. He and Evans

accounted for eight Derbyshire batsmen between them. Of these, Aldred, the nightwatchman, was well taken low down at third slip, Jones top-edged a drive and any number of batsmen were leg-

before. Only Adams, who was well forward to Bowen, could count himself unfortunate. Not many sides, though will bowl out Derbyshire for as little as 117 this season, even if that did not greatly enhance their chances of winning.

Soon, Dominic Cork should be back to boister the middle order, to say nothing of England's cricket this summer. His groin injury is responding to treatment and he expects to be running within the next fortnight and playing at some stage in the next three weeks.

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Captains attempt to salvage result

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

four): Yorkshire with eight second-innings in hand, are 227 runs ahead of Somerset

HAD the weather not imposed itself quite so forcefully on this match, it would almost certainly have been hard fought evenly-contested. To achieve a positive result, however, both captains needed to be complicit in a declaration that gave the game some leverage so that Somerset could have a "long chase". There have been some nota-

ble performances. Darren Lehmann's 177, an imnings full of expansive strokes, is principal among them, although Simon Ecclestone played well for his unbeaten 79. There were also seven wickets for Andrew Caddick, six of them in Yorkshire's first innings, which should cheer him up a bit after the loss of his Eng-



Ecclestone aggressive

Lehmann's batting was superb. To make 177 out of 306. when the next best score is 33. tells the story of Yorkshire's first innings pretty clearly. While he was at the crease, only 65 other runs came off the hat, so proudly did he assert himself, so well did he play. He seemed to find the bound-

Michael Bevan gave a lot to this team, but already Lehmann has managed a better score than Bevan did in his two years with Yorkshire, which does not mean a lot except in this regard: he played so freely that he will provide great entertainment this year. There are undoubtedly many more enterorising runs inside that squat frame.

Resuming on 109; Lehmann went to 150 from 215 balls. lifting Mushtaq Ahmed for sixeither side of reaching it. His third fifty took 47 balls and he

TAUNTON (third day of added another 27 from 13 balls before he was leg-before to the Mushtaq's wrist spin. He was always looking to attack the bowlers and, having got in, he was impossible to contain. It was not a case of Somerset

bowling badly.
Caddick bowled unchanged from the Old Pavilion End, to take four of the last six wickets. Blakey's lazy drive to cover ended a hollow innings and the tail came quietly, merrily though Hartley and Stemp slogged. Caddick went round the wicket to tie things up, bowling Hartley with a full toss that shattered his stumps. Hartley lingered a while, giving a baleful glare down the pitch, wondering whether this was fair play.

Hartley wasted no time in having his say in the proceed-ings. Lathwell was leg-before to his third ball and Bowler departed when John Holder. one of two Holders standing in this match, decided that he had glanced the ball on its way to Blakey. It took him fully five seconds to make up his mind, which is not to say that he was

When Holloway, responding to Harden's call for a run to cover, was run out by Vaughan, Somerset had lost three wickets for 36. It was then that Ecclestone came in for his first championship innings of the season and played compellingly until the declaration came 37 overs later when he was 79.

He is playing because Som-erset have lost patience, temporarily, with Trescothick, the opener, and, if Ecclestone plays like this, his place in the team will not be in doubt. He much prefers to play off the back foot, and in his eagerness to take the light to the bowlers he will always give them a chance, but there is no point in trying to mend his ways. Batsmen must be better off when their cricket flows directly from their character.

Full marks to Bowler for declaring 103 runs behind, and throwing down the challenge to Byas to make a game of it. The captains did well to get in as much play as they did on Thursday, and they are both trying hard to win this match. Yorkshire lost two wickets last night, as they stretched their lead and a good day ended, as it had started, with Lehmann punching his strokes to all parts of



Fairbrother paddles at an awkward ball from Snape on his way to making 83 at Old Trafford yesterday

Fairbrother presides over recovery

By Barney Spender

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four): Lancashire, with two first-innings wickets in hand. are 69 runs behind Northamptonshire

LANCASHIRE have shown signs of an ailing patient of late, but yesterday they hinted at a recovery. Led by Neil Fairbrother, their stand-in captain, who had an absorbing battle with John Emburey. and by Ian Austin, they saved the follow-on with a gritty display of batting.

Austin, who was dropped three times in his 93 not out, took Lancashire through to within 69 runs of Northamptonshire and set up the possibility of some overnight connivance between the captains and a run chase this afternoon.

Their survival yesterday depended on Fairbrother and he did not let them down. For a player written off so often as a one-day specialist, he showed remarkable self-denial in batting for four hours and ten minutes, for a well crafted 83 from 245 balls. When he cut Tony Penberthy's first delivery with the new ball to Paul Taylor at third man, the disappointment around the ground was tangible, not only because he had missed a deserved century, but also hecause his duel with

Emburey was finally over. Emburey keeps talking about retiring but if he keeps bowling as well as he did yesterday, particularly in the morning, it would be no surprise to see him continuing. Admittedly the pitch helped him, but Emburey

showed such control that at

one point his figures for the

day were 22-15-8-0. Fairbrother took it on himself to deal with him, a brave thing to do for a left-hander who faced the continuous danger of the ball turning away from him. He must have been beaten a dozen times but was never unnerved.

At the other end, Rob Bailey fiddled his other spinners. Jeremy Snape failed to find a consistent line with his off spin while Bailey, and Tim Walton. who tried a few leg breaks, sent down a couple of overs each. The surprise package,

and the man who got the wickets, was Taylor.

In his morning spell of fast bowling, he produced a snorter to remove Titchard and then, in nine overs of very respectable left-arm spin, he had Paddy McKeown caught at slip for an attractive 46 and then yorked Gary Yates. Later, bowling off his full run, he removed Warren Hegg.

Eventually Fairbrother threw off the shackles and flogged Emburey over mid-on for six and through the covers for a boundary two balls later. That was the cue for Northampronshire to call for the new ball which accounted for him and, if Bailey had taken the first of Austin's offerings, they might still have forced the

Leicestershire began briskly enough, Wells making 56 and showing that the old timing is coming back. Wells and Whitaker were then caught at slip off Pearson, but the Surrey off spinner could not maintain the same pressure that his near namesake. Pierson, had done for Leicestershire. It took a fiery spell from Tudor to undermine the middle order as

Sheriyar returns

rivals at

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

to torment

Durham

once again

CHESTER LE STREET (third day of four): Durham. with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 94 runs behind Worcestershire

DURHAM were busy doing what they know best yester-day by attempting to retrieve an adverse situation. Having suffered six innings defeats in the past two championship seasons, they followed on with steely resolve.

The first time around. Durham had been bewitched and beleaguered by Philip Newport and Alamgir Sheriyar as the last six wickets tumbled for 17 runs in ten overs. No balls had the rare distinction of top scoring with 26 in Durham's puny total of 132.

While playing for Leicestershire three years ago. Sheriyar completed a hattrick against Durham at Dur-ham University. His latest

figures of four for 53 rewarded an unwavering, left-arm challenge on a damp pitch. which his county coach. David Houghton, believes will become more benign.

Newport is intent on proving him wrong. In the first innings, he had dismissed Martin Speight, caught off the splice at short leg, and Michael Foster, bowled by a slower ball, thus aspiring to a hat-trick before being denied by James Boiling. Next over, Boiling himself was leg-be fore to a full-length delivery from Sheriyar and at 120 for seven, the damage to Durham's innings was

irreparable. The callow bowlers in Durham's lower order look even more ill at ease with willow in hand. Higher in the order. the time will soon come to reconsider the talents of Hutton, Daley. Blenkiron and Roseberry, a century maker in the second XI's win at Worcester yesterday.

It has been Durham's devout intention to stamp a county identity on their team but the top six batsmen, who all await a championship hundred this summer, are imports, with the exception of Paul Collingwood. Worcestershire held their

catches in the first innings, Philip Weston, at 6ft 3in, swooping to clutch an especially difficult chance at backward point, offered by Nick

When the chill factor set in. Steven Rhodes dropped John Morris, on four, off David Leatherdale. David Boon, the Durham captain, had also succumbed to a ball keeping low from Stuart Lamoitt in the first innings. His verbal exhortations doubtless spurred Durham's late-afternoon riposte.

IN BRIEF

Lyon keeps bay after dressage

leading the teacher at the Chubb Insurance Windsor International Horse Trials yesterday as Polly Lyon, on Wat Tyler, retained her advantage at the end of the dressage phase, ahead of Angela Tucker, her trainer, who has moved into third on Much The Best (Jenny Mac-Arthur writes).

The two are separated by Eddy Stibbe, of Holland, the 1993 European bronze medal-winner, on Kilkea Castle. With Andrea Verdina, of Italy. on Rhymin Lion, and Norbert Kriegisch, of Germany, on Hupfender Stein. within four points of Lyon, the leaders cannot afford to make mistakes in the speed and endurance phase today.

Tough draws

Tennis: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski were vesterday given difficult draws in the early rounds of the French Open, which starts on Monday. Henman, the British No 1 and the No 15 seed. meets Olivier Delaitre, of France, in the first round and, should he survive, will face either Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, or Niklas Kulti, of Sweden, Rusedski, the British No 2. plays Francisco Clavet. of Spain, in the first round for the right to meet either Pete Sampras, the No I seed, or Fabrice Santoro, of France.

Front men

Rugby union: The World XV to play Wasps, the English league champions, in the Sanyo Cup at Twickenham today includes six South Africa forwards, including the front row likely to face the British Isles on June 21. ☐ Gloucester have signed Terry Fanolua, the Western Samoa international, and Raphaël Saint-André, the younger brother of Philippe, the

Nicholas leads

France international.

Golf: Alison Nicholas, of Great Britain, and Mardi Lunn, of Australia, recorded 69s to share the lead after the first round of the LPGA Corning Classic near New York. The pair have a onestroke lead over Caroline Pierce, another Briton, and Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden.

Clifton's chance

Hockey: Clifton, who finished third in the Premiership, have the chance to lift their first important domestic trophy and qualify for the European Cup Winners' Cup when they meet Hightown in the AEWHA Cup final at Milton keynes tomorrow.

Maddy's tardy century reprieves Surrey only his second championship century. Which eventually arrived in four minutes Surrey's first innings in the morning, but after Millns had claimed Pearson leg-BY PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 27 runs ahead of Surrey

THERE are times when personal ambition can get in the way of a team's requirements. No one begrudged Darren Maddy a hundred at Grace Road vesterday, especially since it was his 23rd birthday, but Leicestershire might have been better off had he completed it with a bit more alacrity.

They needed to force the pace to give themselves a realistic chance of beating Surrey in a match that has already been reduced to three days, but the game seemed to stand still for 70 minutes after tea while Maddy was edging towards short of five hours.

He is a chunky, compact batsman who gets steadfastly into line against the fast bowlers, has a good defensive technique and a handsome range of strokes. The England selectors have already shown their interest by picking him for the Rest against England A and his target now is a place on one of the winter tours. This innings will have improved his prospects considerably, but where it leaves Leicestershire remains to be seen. They could yet score enough runs to embarrass Surrey but, failing that, they cannot expect too much co-operation from Chris Lewis, Surrey's acting captain. It would have helped the champions'

cause if they could have polished off

before. Benjamin helped Martin Bicknell to put on 42 for the final wicket.

he yorked Johnson and had Habib caught at slip. In between times. Lewis had Smith leg-

before, but Surrey could not dislodge Maddy before he had square-cut Martin Bicknell for his fourteenth four to reach his hundred.

FOR THE RECORD

GLASGOW: World team championship Sudimen Cup) Group 1A: Chine bt South korea 3-2 Group 1 semi-finals: China bt Indonesia 3-2 Group 1 semi-finals: China bt Indonesia 3-2 Group 2k: Japan bt Thaland 3-2; Germany bt Tawan 3-2 Group 2k: Holland bt Flussia 3-2, Melayste bt Canada 4-1 Group 3A: Australia bt Hong kong 3-2; Ferland bt Austria 3-2 Group 3k: India bt Norway 4-1 New Zealend bt Scotland 3-2 Group 4k: United States bt Poland 3-2 Group 4k: United States bt Poland 3-2 Iceland bt Bulgeria 3-2; Group 5 play-offs: Learnbourg bt Argentina 4-1; Barly bt Cyprus 5-0, Stovekus bt Mesico 4-1; Brazil bt Metia 3-2

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Ceveland 9 kansas Cey 1: New York Yankees 2 Boston 8. Tevas 10 Ceviand 7 NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 7 Colorado 2: San Diogo 4 Los Angelec 1. Philadelpha 3 New York Meis 10 Montreal 3 Philadelpha 9 New York Meis 10 Montreal

BASKETBALL

PEZINOK, Stovekla: European champion-ships: Qualification round: England 108 (Whyte 16, Swame 15, Huggins 13 Baiver 13, Buckhall 13, Hansell 10 Libernbourg 64 (Feyder 23, Horsmans 17, Grandjen 8) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Play-offs: Finals. Eastern Conference: Chacago 75 Majur 68 (Chicago lead best-of-seven series 2-0)

BOWLS

ROMBOUTS EWBA INTER-COUNTY DOUBLE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP (Walker Cup) First round: Derbyshire by Lincoh-shae 54-24. Cumbria to Dunam 47-25. Yorkshire bi Nottinghamshire 41-33; North-umberland bi Lancashire 46-41, Warachchie to Cembridgethre 47-35, Humang-donshre Di Leliasstershre 34-33, North-emplonshre bi Oxforchre 45-32; Sutfok til Bedfordshre 42-24, Dorset bi Comwall

43-40, isle of Wight bit Worcestorshire 45-35, Gloucestershire bit Heretordshire 43-25, Hampshire bi Witshire 41-30 Surrey bi Borkshire 45-27, Sussex bi Middlesex 45-32, Herbordshire bi Keni 36-32, Buckinghemshire bi Essex 43-41

BOXING

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, London: ComellerMan And Castille, Dendort Com-monwealth and vecent World Bosons Council international super-teatherweight championship: J Juuko (Uga) bt D Ouma (kan) pts Feather (Ands) D Easton (New Addington) bt K Jones (Swansea) Super-teather (Ands) D Adams (Besadon) bt R Grubb Tiplon) pts Light (Ands) D Lutaaya (Canning Town and Uga) bt S Frailing Grubb (Tiplon) pis Light (Amos) I Lunaaya (Canning Town and Uga) to S Fraing (Hayes) is 2nd md Light (Amds) A Moloo (Birmingham) to C Santey (Croycon) isc 3rd md Heavy (Amds); P Douglas (Baltasi) drew with M Tekoury (Puss)

CRICKET

THE PARKS: One-day match: Royal Newy 175 (P. Bersby 58, C. Petel 6-69), Oxford University 176-6. Oxford University with by four wickels.

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Seventh stage (Lencieno to Mondragono, 206km) 1, M Wust (Ger. Festina) Stri 15min 40sec; 2, M Rossalo III.

tessi (A. Iudover dab) 49 Mastampeor Inationali seethori: I, Holdfact Bragdier IJ P. Sheffieldi; 48 fots. 2, Capuchin (P. Prulinosi 54.2; 3, Chappaqua; IJ Robunson) 54 6 Coutts British junior championiship: 1, Hashy Armal (H. West) 46.2ptc; 2; Knockanswen (H. Wilson) 53 6; 3. Paides Promise (P. Jackson) 54 6.

land 2 in Stockholm
WORLD CUP: Asser qualitying zone:
Group nive: Palistan 2 trag 6 (in Leihore)
ARGENTINIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: River
Pale 1 Rosano Central 1
COPA BRAZIL: Final, second leg:
Flamengo 2 Gremo 2 (2-2 on agg. Gremo

MITTSTATTE SEE: Austrian Open: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) 65: E Strisek (Ger) 66: W Bernett, K Caressing (US), T Parachin (Fr) 67: M Debove (Fr), S Delegrange (Fr), C Johnson (US), S Crotin 68: S Tinning (Den), P Jecobson (Swe), R Jecopetin (Fr) B Dradge, S Burnet, F Cupitard (Fr), A Collison, Other British scores: 69: B Davis, M Welch, S Pullan 70: S Gallacher, A Clapp, M Plummer

Decouser From braish scores As A Lyle FINHAM PARK, Covening: Sootilish Life/Ben Sayers senior club professional championship: Leading final scores; 203. T Horior: (Royal Jensey; 70, 67, 66, 212; C Delay (Coombe Hill; 71, 74, 67, 213; S Admick: (Padbrook Park), 71, 71, 71, A

Brooks (Royal St George's) 74 68, 71 214: D Huish (North Bernack) 74, 69, 71 D Husti (North Bernack) 74, 69, 71
CORNING, New York, LPGA Classic,
Leading first-round scores (United States
unless stated): 89: A Nicholas (GB), M Lunn
Jaus) 70: C Pierce (GB), H Alfredsson
(Swel 71: T Green M Redman C H) Koch
(Swel, 72: C Walker, N Rarrsborton, P
Lisclo, R Jones, P Harmel, J Goson, V
Cdegard, K Marshall (GB), D Hoyema, R

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Stanley Cup play-offs: Finals: Western Conference: Detroil 6 Colorado O (Detroit lead best-of-

MOTOR RALLYING RGENTINIAN RALLY: Leading positions

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Sallord Fieds ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Castleford 26 Wigan 20; Harlax 10 Featherstone 16 Bradford 16 Oldham 18

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 60 Eastbourne 30 PREMIER LEAGUE: Shothold 47 Long Eafon 42

TENNIS

O, Czech Republic 2 United States 1.
 ST POLITEN, Austria: Mem's tournement: Cuerter-finale: D Hirtery (Stoyaka) br N Alami (Mori 6-1, 6-2; M Piappore (Uni at N Hydahi (See) 7-5, 6-1, P Ratter (Austria) 6-3, 7-6, M Norman (Swee) br S Schalbern (Holf) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3, Seminale: Filippori bi Hirbary 7-6, 6-1, Retter to Norman 6-1, 4-6, 6-3
 Child (Mori 4) Alamana (Austria) 6-1, Retter to Norman 6-1, 4-6, 6-3
 Child (Mori 4) Alamana (Austria) 6-4, 18-4, 1

MADRID: Women's bournament: Quarter-finate: F Leber (Arg) bit I Sprice (Rom) 6-2, 7-5, A Sanchez Vicano (Sp) bit A Grossman (US) 6-1, 6-1; J Novotina (Cat br G Leon (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; M Seles, (US) bit V Ruano (So) 6-2 6-1 Sem-Finats; Seles bit Labal 6-7, 6-1 6-2 Novotina bit Sanchez Vicano 6-4, 6-4 STDASPOLORO.

RUEKA, Crostia: European champion-ships: Under 64kg, 1, H Suleymanoglu (fur) isnatch 142 Skg, ckain and jerk 165) 307 St. 2. Fankas (Huri) 305, 3 M N Doots (Romi 295)

Britannie Assurance county championship

CHESTEP-LE-STREET (thed day of fourf-Durlism, with rare second-immigs wickets in hand, need 94 runs to evoid an arrange deloal agent Woocestershare WORCESTERSHIRE: First smings T S Curity C Collingmond b Walker 43
W P C Westing t Collingwood b Walker 63
A Hack a Spleight b Ligsden 39
h R Spring 5 Foster 32
"I M Moody 5 Sagers 67
G R Haynes & Lawss b Collingwood 67
L A Lestherdels not out 47

Durham v Worcestershire

Total (6 wide dec, 104.5 overs) ... SR Lampite PJ Newport and A Shenyar did FALL OF WACKETS - 1-24, 2-107, 3-142, 4-180, 5-249, 6-317 OWLING: Linguism 16 5-2-58-1 Saggers 4-3-28-1; Walter 25-8-61-2, Foster 19-3-9-1 Bourng 23-3-62-0; Boom 7-0-3-0; cillingwood 8-1-28-1.

Extras (0.2, to 12, w 24, no 4)

DURNAM: First Impings JJ B Love's Shariyas
J J B Love's Shariyas
P D Collegeand's Curie b Shenyar
J E Morns folig b Haynes
N J Scask of Weston to Shariyas
D C Scort folig b Lampit
M P Scagit e Curies b Newport
M J Foster to Mawport
J Bolling for b Shenyar
M J Scanges and a Mayor M J Saggers not out _ A Walter b Newport S Lugsden b Newport

Edras (b 4, 10.7; no 26) ... Total (462 overs) 132 FALL OF WICKETS 1-22 2-25 3-15, 4-67. 5-115, 5-115, 7-120, 8-127, 9-128. BCWLING: Newport 152.4-33-4. Shenyar 17-5-53-4. Haynes 7-2-21-1. Lampil 6-2-13-1. Leathercase 1-0-1-0.

Second Inning: Julia Lewis noting 111 B Lewis noting 112 B Lewis n Edras (b 2, b) 2, rb, 14) ... Total (1 wist)

FALL OF WICKET: 1-42 BOWLING Name 5-17-0 Sheliya 7-2-21-0 Haynes 9-123-0 Lemmi 5-2-12-0 Hris 11-5-11-0 Lemmidae 10-2-32-1 Bonus pohits Durbam 2 Warceshralain & Impres A Claruon and N T PIEAS.

Gloocestershire v Essex GLOUCESTER fried day of four! Esset, with swints indige societs in hand, are 154 turn nothing Gloucestership GLOUCESTERSHIRE: FIRE PARTIES Hanor c D R Leas o for MALynch & Gooth b Mark

S Young for D Conen

M W Alleyre e Georgen b led

H F Dans by b tot

H C Research on our

I K C Heacock e Georgen b Conen M South tox & D.R.L.W Extrac (p. 1, to 10, a 2, nb 2) 290 Total (103.3 overs)--TALL OF WICKETS 1-3, 2-3, 3-30, 4-43, 5-20, 6-20, 7-54, 8-102, 9-290

VESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS BOWLING: Bott 27-7-82-4; Cowen 25-9-47-2; Irani 20-7-49-2; Such 23-5-57-0; D.R. Law 5-3-0-34-2; Grayson 3-0-10-0. ESSEX: First Innings

the ground.

G A Gooch Row b Smith P J Prichard low b Young . N Hussain c Russell b Smith SGLaw not out -RC bant b Alleyne Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 2) Total (4 wkts, 40 overs) . DR Law, 18 J Hyem, M C Not. A P Cowen and P M Such to bat. FALL OF WICKETS 1-10, 2-25, 3-36, 4-72.

Umpaes: D J Constant and B Leadbeate Lancashire v Northamptonshire

Barris Cloucestershire 3 Essex 4.

CLD TRAFFORD (third day of four) Lancashire, with two first-timings wickets in hand, are 68 runs behind Monthamptonishire NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 479 (K.M. Curran 108, D. Ripley 78 not out, T.C. Walton 60, R.J. Bailey 58) Vising by, H.J. Balley as:

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
J.E.R. Gallian o Bailey b Emburey
M.T. Wood C. Rigbley b Penbertry
S.P. Tachard c. Rigbley b Taylor
M.H. Farbrother of Taylor b Penbertry
P.C. Matkington of Curran b Taylor
C. Watter b. Taylor

Extract (b 1, to 4, w 2, rib 12) Total (8 wkts)

G Knody to bai Score at 120 overs 299-6 FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-84, 3-99, 4-178. 5-218, 6-263, 7-320, 8-366. POMLING. Taylor 35-8-101-4; Penbertry 15-3-52-2; Emburey 48-18-110-1; Snepe 36-7-99-0; Welton 2-0-7-0; Balley 2-0-14-0;

Souts points: Lancashire 3 Umpires: K.E. Palmer and J.F. Steele. Leicestershire v Surrey

LEICESTER (mad day of four) Luice share, with low first immings wickets in h are 27 runs ahead of Surrey SURREY: First Innings SUPPLEY First names
D J Becknett But b Millers
M A Butcher But b Millers
J D Retetins a Maddy b Johnson
A D Brown b Pierson
T C C Lewis a Habb b Pierson
M P Becknett not out

JE Bengman c Wells b Mi Extras (6.3. fb 15, w 6, no 12) (2064/0 801) (alto T. .278 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-96, 3-151, 4-173, 5-190, 6-220, 7-227, 8-234, 9-236 ECALING: Milns 26 7-54-4; Mullishy 19-3 75-0: Parsons 22-9-38-0; Wells 4-0-17-0 Pierson 30-14-47-4, Johnson 7-1-19-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Imags

Extras (b. 7, /b.1, w.8, nb.38) Total (6 wigs, 90 overs)

G J Parsons, A R K Pierson and A D Mudally to bet FALL OF WICKETS: 1-131, 2-147, 3-188, 4-197, 5-204, 6-271. BOWLING, M P Bicknell 17-2-54-1, Lewis 12-2-44-1; Tudor 12-1-51-2; Bergamin 16-4-35-0; Pearson 26-4-90-2, D J Bicknell 5-1-13-0; Butcher 2-0-10-0.

Bonus points: Lexcestershire 7 Surrey 4. Umpres: G | Burgers and B J Meyer Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire TRENT BRIDGE (third day of faunt Not-tinghamshire, with five second-intends wickets in hand, require 123 runs to beat Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Imparge 319 (D M Jones 77, V P Clarke 50; M N Bowen 7 for Sacond Innings
K.J. Barnett c Metcelfe b Evens
A.S. Rollins Ibw b Bowen
P. Aldred c Alzeal b Evens
C.J. Aderne Ibw b Bowen
D. M. Jones c Downan b Evens
M.E. Cassar Ibw b Bowen
M.E. Cassar Ibw b Bowen
M.E. Cassar Ibw b Bowen

Extras (b 4, lb 7, w 2, nb 4) FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0. 2-3, 3-10, 4-45, 5-61, 8-80, 7-90, 8-105, 9-112. BOWLING: Evens 17.2-6-40-4. Bowen 20-9-34-4; Franks 14-2-28-2; Atzael 1-0-

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First innings 192 (P Johnson 60, U Atzaal 52; D E Malcolm 4 tor 42) Second Innings WM Moon not out ... Extracs (0,7,053,n04)

Total (5 wkts) . FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-19, 3-26, 4-43, BOWL NG Malcolm 17-3-34-2, Harris 10-5-15-0, Alched 11-4-11-0, Dean 10-4-30-1; Clarke 7-0-22-1. Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 4 Umpires: J D Bond and A G T Whitehead

Somerset v Yorkshire TAUNTON (thed day of tour): Yorkshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand. wan eight escond-invince wicket are 27 runs phoad of Somersel YORKSHIRE: First Innings YORKSHIRE: First Innings
M D Moson c Bowler b Shine
M P Vaughan c Burns b Caddick, ...
D Byas b Rose ...
D Byas b Rose ...
D Sushmann stov b Mushtaq ...
A McGrath c Burns b Shine ...
C White b Caddick
P J Hartley b Caddick

The state of the s

Extracs (b 5, &b 13, nb 8) Total (80.3 overs) ... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-3, 3-39, 4-79, 5-122, 6-260, 7-278, 8-279, 9-281.

BOWLING: Caddick 30 3-3-103-6. Shine 16-1-54-2. Rose 8-2-19-1. Mushraq Ahrned 22-8-91-1. Parsons 4-0-21-0 Second Innings M D Moxon low b Mushted M P Vaughan b Caddick "D Byas not out DS Lehmann not out ... Extras (lb 4, nb 4)

Total (2 wkts) ... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-65. BOWAING: Caddick 7-2-16-1; Shine 6-0-33-0; Mushiaq Ahmed 8-0-42-1; Rose 7-1-SOMERSET: Fast Image

M N Latitivel libit b Harriey
P D Bowlor c Bishey b Harriey
P D Bowlor c Bishey b Harriey
R J Harden libit b Wharl
S C Ecclestone not out
K A Parsons not out
Evene R A gla 10 Extras (b 4, nb 10) Total (5 wkts dec. 48.5 overs) G D Rose, Mushtaq Ahmed, A R Caddick and k J Shine did not ball. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-19, 3-36, 4-102.

BOWLING: Hartley 11-3-39-2: Hamilton 10-1-54-0; Storng 11-4-36-0; Whate 6-2-16-0, Wharl 6-1-23-1; Vaughan 4-0-25-1; McGrath 0-5-0-6-0. Bonus points: Somerset 5 Yorkshire 5 Sussex v Kent HORSHAM (thed day of lour): Susser, with name second-amongs wickers in hand require 391 runs to beat Hert

KENT: First Innings 245 (7 R Ward 67; K Newelf 4 for 61). Second Innings A P Welle c Moores b Drakes
N J Llong b Drakes
G R Cowdrey c M Newell b Drakes M V Fleming c Jarvis b Robinson ... TS A Marsh c Radford b K Newell P A Strang c Groentield b Robinson
BJ Philips not out

Extras (b 8, to 11, w 10, nb 6) . . FALL OF WICKETS, 1-5, 2-69, 3-84, 4-86, 5-158, 6-188, 7-197, 8-197, 9-257 BOM/LING Janvs 24-3-75-1. Drakes 29-4-152-4: Robinson 32-11-82-3. Khan 26-8-82-1: K Newell 12 4-2-46-1. Althoy 1-0-4-0 SUSSEX: First innings 264 (M Nawell 56. P W Jarvis 55; B J Prelips 5 for 47). Second irrnings T A Radford c Marsh b McCague .

BOWLING, McCaque 8-4-6-1, Philips 2-1-5-0, Strang 5-0-16-0; Flaming 1-0-4-0.

N J Lenham not out

FALL OF WICKET: 1-14

Bonus points. Sussex 6 Kertl 5

Umpires: A.A. Jones and T.E. Jesty.

Total (1 wkt) ...

Edras (b 17, fb 16, w 2 nb 16) BOWLING: Donald 22-4-38-2: Welch 22-4-75-3; Brown 28-9-54-3; Sheikh 9.3-5-10-1; mith 5-0-11-0

Total (1 wid) WARWICKSHIRE: Fest Innings

Total (56.1 overs) FALL OF WICKETS 1-8 2-66, 3-74, 4-97 5-104, 6-106, 7-110, 8-120, 9-155

BOWLING Fraser 12-5-30-2; Hewst 38-3, Johnson 16 1-6-40-2, Tufnell

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (tinal day of threet: Southampton: Nottinghamshire 215 and 162: Hampshire 225 and 156-2 (D. A Kenway 79 not out, P. R. Whesker 68 no Remay 29 not out, P. N. Windawar on not out, Hampshire win by eight wickets. Northampton: Somerset 352-7 dec and second minigs forter. Northamptonshire 72-2 dec and 180. Somerset win by 100 runs. Oxford Yorkshire 239 and 215 (f. Arm. 6-65): Surrey 344-9 dec and 11-4 Surrey win by six widelets. Ubbridge, Leocalorshire 343 and 10-1. Middleson 256. Match drawn. Departmentalist kert 3724, dec and 180-6.

Warwickshire v Middlesex EDGBASTON (stud day of four). Middle with nine second-innings wickets in hand are 84 nuns ahead of Warwickshire MIDDLESEX: First Inmings

P N Weekes c Front b Brown J H Kallis Ibw b Brown M F Ramprokash c Khan b Brown M W Gatting c Moles to Donald J C Pooley c Frost to Donald ... tK R Brown c Ostler to Welch ... S P Molfat c Frost to Welch ... J C Pooley o Prost to Donald
th R Brown o Octier to Welch
S P Moffat o Frost to Welch
R L Johnson o Moles to Welch
J P Hewat nan out
A R C Fraser not out
P C R Tutnet o sub to Shekin
Totals (12 July 2)

BOWLING: Donald 7-2-9-0, Brown 5-1-8-1 Welch 2-2-0-0.

No play yesterday CARDET (third day of four), Hampshire 232-2 (R A Smith 81 not out, K D James 76 not out, M L Hayden 57) v Glamorgan

943 and 10-1. Maddlesov 256 Match drown Pontarridulaist Nert 3024 dec and 180-6 dec; Glamorgan 222-8 dec MJ Poseet 130 not outly and 261-7 (Powelt 144 not outly. Glamorgan win by three wickets Wortesster: Wortesster 200-7 dec and 112-9 dec; Durham 44-1 dec and 274-5 (M A Rosebern 118) Durham win by five wickets Saffron Walden, Susses 351-7 dec and 193 (R Ran 57, MJ Thursfield 51 SJW Andrew 5-18), Esses 300-7 dec and 184-8 Match drawn Stratford-upon-Avort Lancashire 238-9 dec and second immignated. Warwedschire him innings forfoil and 108-9. Match drawn.

BADMINTON

Second Innings P N Weekes low to Brown M R Ramprakash not out "M W Galling not out ... Extras (to 4, no 2) . . .

"A J Moles b Johnson
"A J Moles b Johnson
W G Khan c Brown b Tufnet
D L Penney o Weekes b Hewrit
D P Ostler b Howar
D P Ostler b Howar
D P Ostler b Howar
N M K Smith c Ramprakash b Johns
G Wetch c Galting b Hewrit
M & Shelth bin out Mr A Sheikh run out †T Frosic Pooley b Turneil . Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 2, rb 11) . . .

Bonus points Warwickshire 4 Middlesex 5 Umpires G Sharp and R A White

Scrigno), 3, E. Leon (II, ARI); 4, G. Magriusson (Sive, Amore and Vita), 5, M. Traverson (II, Mercione Unot); 6, M. Manzoni (II, Roskotto), 7, D. Continn (II, Brescalar); 8, G. Balducci III, Ceramiche Reini); 9, J. Werner (Ger. Ceramiche Reini), 10, F. Baldado (II, Maglitico MG) all same time. Leading overall positions: 1, P. Tonkov (Russ, Magei) 29th 58mn 42sec; 2, Lieblanc (Fr. Potti) at 41sec; 3, I Gorti III, Saecol Imari O'sec, 4, P. Petto III Saecol 113, 5, M. Pantani III, Mescatone Unol 1, 31

EQUESTRIANISM WINDSOR: Chubb Insurance Windso International Horse Trials (after dressege 1 Wal Tyler i? Lyon, GB, 47 6pts. 2, Julie Caste (E. Sabbe, Holf) 492, 3, Much Th Best (A. Tucker, GB), 498, Masterpied

FOOTBALL BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Play-off, second leg: Akdhe-onians 2 Hibernan 4 (Hibernan vin 5-2 on agg) INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Sweden 2 Po-

wan on away goods)

LE BLANC, France: British overseas regional championships: Second day (323-m quad, 0 completions of 38), 1 equal P Crabb (158) and S Crabb (158), 396-m, 852-ps., 3, T Scoti (158) 300, 756, 4 equal, 1 Glossop (Occus) and P Jeffery (158) 233, 741, 6, E Downham (ASW27) 308, 740, 7, D Wati (156) 302, 737, 8 equal, G McAndrew (Duo Discus) 297 and S Hodey (Discus) 298, 731; 10, G Sprecider (158) 359, 671 Leading overall postoms: 1 equal, P and S Crabb 1,757-pts. 3, Scoti 1,632, 4, Wati 1,574, 5, Glossop 1,553

Clano M Plummer Clapp, M Plummer
FORT WORTH, Toxas: Colonial tournsment: Leading first-round scores (all United States) 63: 5 Faxon 64: P Goydos, J Leonard, J Furyk, 65: R Tutay, B Henninger, D Duval 66: J Stuman, L Wackins, L Binker, T Tolles, D Frest, D Ogim, 67: F Allem, G Ivant T Henrion, L Roberts, W Glasson, J Housson, T Woods, W Andrade, F Furik, M Calcavecchia, P Jecobsen, E Fyrn British score: 73: A Lyle
Fight PARK. Covernor Scottlich

より 変力 というかん

Cologard, N. Marshall (GS), D. Poyerta, P. Heihemogon, E. Hayashda, Other Euro pean scores; 73; C. Matthew (GB), N. Fin-(Austria), H. Dobeco (GB), 78; A. M. Palli, Fin-S. Maynor (GB), 78; P. Wingth (GB), K. Dawes (GB), C. Sorenstam (Swe), E. Dehloft (Swe) ICE HOCKEY

ARGENTING day: 1, T Makmer second day: 1, T Makmer Misubshii 2hr 42mm 51sec, 2 C IGB, Subaru) 2 43 17, 3, C Sanz (Stanz Material Material

SPEEDWAY

DÜSSELDORF: World Team Cup: Blue group: Spain 3 Germany 0; Hotland 2 Swedon 1 Red group: Australia 3 Croana 0, Czech Republic 2 United States 1.

Political Control of the Control of

STRASSOURG: Women's tournament Ousrter-finals: M Luck (Cro) bi N Zverevi (Bolal 7-5, 6-3. J Wresner Austra) bi S Appetmans (Bolt 6-3, 6-4. Semi-final 1 Graf (Gart bi A Coetzer (SA) 4-6 7-5 7-6 WEIGHTLIFTING

The state of

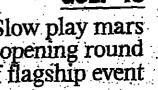


RACING 46, 47

Can Revoque live with the pace in Irish 2,000 Guineas?

SP()KI

Slow play mars opening round of flagship event





SATURDAY MAY 24 1997

Clubs to cash in on new world order

overplayed, some say the overpaid. footballers, and no protection for national associations losing out in the club versus country argument.

Next Saturday, as England play their vital World Cup qualifying match against Poland in Katowice without Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, withheld by Liver-pool, the committee men of Fifa sit in Zurich to approve another tournament, a proposed world club championship, to fill the idle month of July in years between World Cup and European championship summers.

So, instead of the Football Association being able to look towards higher authority to exert its rights to the precious time of players the governors of Fifa. the world governing body, are looking to milk the profits at an even greater rate. These gentlemen, so

THERE is to be no rest for the handy with their health warnings that too much, too often is demanded of 100 few leading international players, are adding to the

> The Fifa executive last December asked Sepp Blatter, the general secretary, to come up with a format for the world club championship. He will propose a 12-day tournament involving eight teams: the champions from each of Fifa's six confederations, plus the champions of the host country and the winner of the annual meeting of the champions of Europe and South America. The eight will cross their time zones and the oceans to compete in two mini-leagues, rather like the Champions' League, followed by a semi-final, final and third-place play-off - In marches in all.

One of the sore points, of course, is that Uefa, now grossing more than £125 million per season

Rob Hughes reveals how Fifa's plans for another money-spinning global

tournament would exacerbate football's club versus country dispute

through the Champions' League, has simultaneously increased that tournament to 24 teams, increased the number of matches from 61 to 85 . . . and increased the opportunities for countries such as England to enter not one but two clubs.

It would lead to the day when the only respite for an ailing player is the operating theatre, and even then, given the difference of opinion between Liverpool and England, the administrators will haggle over the timing of the operation, irrespective of the individual's welfare -- and to think that Juninho came to England for a more sensible league programme than the 106 games that he played

If approved, Fifa's new championship would fill out the existing calendar thus: 1998, the World Cup in France. 1999, the world club championship in, at a guess. Ja-pan, whose Sony company is about to replace Philips as one of the Champions' League sponsors. 2000, the European championship in Holland and Belgium. 2001, the world club championship, venue to be decided. 2002, the World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

This comes just as Fifa itself published statistics showing that there were \$11 full international matches in 198 countries during 1996. It comes before Fifa has achieved the insoluble - trying to

ope. South America, Africa and Asia. Their medical warnings are as profuse as drops of sweat, yet there is no formula that prevents a goalkeeper such as Kasey Keller from being flown across the Atlantic at the peak of the season to represent Leicester City and the United States within a matter of

days.
We cannot blame the individual player who, after all, must reap vhile he may. He will, in any case, be mindful of the shattering, premature end to a career that came in a single tackle at Old Trafford last year for David Busst, the Coventry City defender.

These players need protection. It is surely the duty of administrators to offer it. Similarly, football addicts around the world need to fit in a summer holiday. Friction between national associations and clubs can only increase, and the ending of the off-season will leave players no option but to make choices of whether to miss club or country matches while they have essential running-repair surgery. As one of Fifa's leading commercial backers observed yesterday, it is the clubs that are becoming smarter and better-run than the associations, the clubs that will carry the financial clout in future dis-

"You are going to get it more and more." Terry Venables, the former England coach, said of the England-Liverpool dispute "Interna-tional football will become invisible apart from World Cups. It is a very dangerous situation." Dangerous, too, to keep on throwing interna-

tional fixture lists at the television tnoneypot. The rapacious appetite of football for television exposure, despite warnings from Blatter and others against it, increases, but will the guarantees necessarily deliver?

At the same Zurich meeting of Fifa's executive next Saturday, João Havelange, the president, is expected to address members on a matter of growing concern. Last July, Fifa handed the television rights for the World Cups of 2002 and 2006 to the German media company, the Kirch Group. Now, according to at least one of the companies that bid unsuccessfully for those rights. Fifa is asking Kirch to give proof that it has the finances to guarantee the US\$2.24 billion agreed for those rights. A television deal signed in haste a year ago, and repented not exactly at leasure — but what is leisure, on or off the field, in the football industry?

Hoddle treats Gascoigne to quiet night in

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

GLENN HODDLE said it was Monday, the dissenters insisted it was Tuesday. In the end, they reached an accommodation and agreed that perhaps Paul Gascoigne's birthday would last for 48 hours. "He is so special, he has got two." Hoddle, the England

Gascoigne and his birthdays, of course, have a habit of colliding like dynamite and a lit fuse. Last year, he celebrated number 29 in the Jump Club's dentist's chair in Hong Kong, helped along by some Lamborghinis.

The fact that he will kiss his 20s goodbye two days before England fly out to Katowice next week for the vital World Cup qualifier with Poland is not, perhaps, the most auspi-

So, yesterday, Hoddle decided to keep Gascoigne, the unpredictable and lavishly gifted Rangers and England midfield player, out of the public glare. He is dreading any twists in the sobriety of a player everyone knows is about to push open the doors to the Last Chance Saloon.

The media had been led to understand that Gascoigne would give a press conference at the England hotel in Cheshire yesterday, where he is preparing for his international comeback, against South Africa at Old Trafford this evening. That duty was entrusted instead to Phil Neville, who will make his first appearance for England on home soil today, and Hoddle was left to explain his reasons for shielding Gascoigne from the

Pay rise ends boycott threat

FEARS that the South Africa team would boycott the match, after a dispute about appearance-money, were allayed yesterday when the South African Football Association (Safa) reluctantly agreed to give each of the players an increased fee. However, Safa was unhappy at having to concede to the last-minute demands and described the players as

"The day before the game." Hoddle said. he needs to get his mind well and truly switched on to focusing on the game and playing well. In a way, it keeps the pressure off him. It is the professional thing to do to let him have this time to himself.

"He can just get himself nice and steady today. We were going to do something with him today, but on reflection the only way that Paul can possibly turn this thing around is to be guided and I felt that him coming here

right thing for him. He is going to be wanting to play well. The thing with Paul is that you do not want to quell his spirit, but he has to realise that he is 30 on Monday, that in many ways he is at his peak and, if he can get himself physically and mentally right and keep himself fit for the next three years,

the game becomes easier." Hoddle's hope must be that Gascoigne, who has lost 17lb in a crash diet and looks leaner and fitter than ever before, can at least last 90 minutes against the team that won the African Nations Cup last year.

The real importance of the game, against a side likely to be captained by Lucas Radebe, the Leeds United defender, and featuring players such as Mark Fish. another defender on the frinces of the Lazio team, is as a warm-up for the match against Poland

Hodule may choose not to risk Alan Shearer or David Seaman and could give a chance in attack to Paul Scholes, although Ian Wright is probably the favourite if Shearer is absent. Gascoigne, though, will definitely play and, if he performs anywhere near his best, Hoddle will turn to him again in Katewice.

It will be in the Slaski Stadium, where Italy coasted to a goalless draw last menth. that Gascoigne will be asked to try to remedy the lack of invention that stymied Eng-



Tongue-twister: Hoddle explains his decision to keep Gascoigne away from a news conference yesterday. Photograph: Malcolm Croft

have to get past that birthday. "If he is going to go and have a drink." Hnddle said, "I will go and have a drink with him and keep an eye on him. We will be meering back up on Monday so we will have a

Georgia. First, though, they cake made for him and have a drink with him in the

"If we were playing an international on Saturday and he was going home on Sunday and I was not going to see him again for six weeks, he could end up on the front pages on Tuesday morning after he had done something, whatever. "If that was the case, I

would not have any hands on: but he will be within the camp and he has got to be sensible. Paul Gaser If he then still goes and does. Tuesday.

that, then he will be hammered, but that will not happen. He is looking forward to these matches and I do not think he will jeopardise that." For the record, by the way, Paul Gascoigne will be 30 on

Star quality bringing new zest to England

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOLLOWERS of the England cricket team have grown used to a sense of trepidation on big-match mornings. Today, though, those jucky enough to have secured tickets for the second Texaco Trophy game against Austrulia will have a spring in their steps on the way to the Oval.

One win has not made a summer. but it has made a vast difference to the "feel-good" factor. England's sixwicket success at Headingley on Thursday was achieved by ericket of spirit and by players capable of filling the void left by the characters of a generation ago. Australia will not after all, have a monopoly on glamour and personalities this

เลางาา The immediate priority, a sixth successive frome one-day series, will be secured if England win either of the weekend matches at the Oval and Lord's, which were sold out months ago. Spectatory are implored to arrive early in order to comply with essential security checks.

Should England take the trophy, it will be more of a boost to them than a blow to the Australians, who continue to broadcast the phlegmatic view that they are acclimatising steadily with a view to peaking when the Tests begin. However, it would not be without long-term implications. On one hand, the scrutiny of Mark Taylor's position as captain of Australia would intensify, on the other, England would generate greater belief, both among the public and in

their own dressing-room. Such a mood ought to be attainable with certain of the match-winners on Thursday around. Although the most influential contribution, calming and convincing, was made by Graham Thorpe, it was the input of the Welshman, the Yorkshireman and the retrieved Australian that illuminated the image of new England.

Robert Croft, who bowled his ten overs for 16 runs - only 12 balls were soured from - has become the cricket and he is a boisterous, energene and popular team man. In Wales, he is already a celebrity, the subject of a series of TV documentaries. The rest of the country will take him to their hearts this summer. Hearts have already been opened

consummate slow bowler in one-day

to Darren Gough, his good friend; it

TELEVISION: Today: Sky Sports 1: Live coverage 10 30am 8BC2: Highlights 8 10pm. Temorrow: Sky Sports 1: Live coverage 10:30am, BBC2: Highlights 8 05pm

has just been a question of waiting for him to produce. He is doing so now, howling with a skill and verve that has already impressed the Australians, Much more, and it may unnerve them, almost as much as the thought of being upstaged by a man whom they probably still claim as one of their own.

Adam Hollioake considers himself English, and no Australian in opposition on Thursday would now dare deny it, yet he possesses a nature that accurately traces his origins. He is confident to the brink of being brash and so obsessively competitive that he admits that he has sometimes begun verbally abusing opponents almost unconsciously. Oddly, though, he is a very nervous starter

with the bat and Australia, having witnessed his susceptibility, will play upon it. On Thursday he was fortunate to get to double-figures, once there, he was a different, highly

assertive player. He must conquer any such failing if, as the nation now fervently hopes, he is to become the batting allrounder of power and personality that everyone wishes to see Hollicake will be the centre of attention on his home ground today, but he must heed the wise words of Michael Atherton, his captain, "It is not heroes that we are looking for,"

he said recently. "but heroic cricket." Equally, while the England team will look for some partisan support this weekend, nobody will be pleased

by a repeat of the gracelessness of Thursday, when Shane Warne and Taylor were booed by a dimwined section of the Headingley crowd. The notorious Western Terrace generally behaved well, but these incidents let them down.

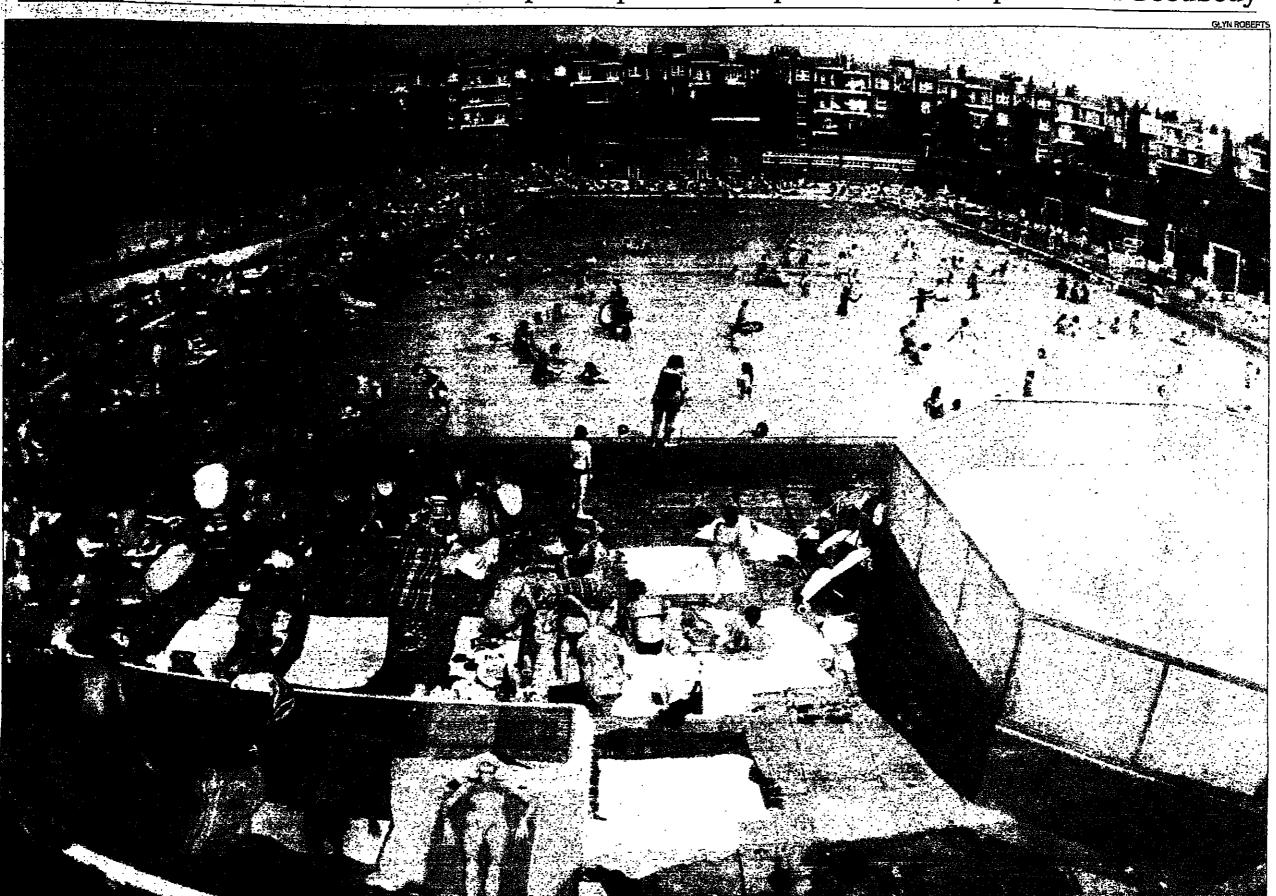
Of greater concern to the Australians today is identifying a fifth bowler for conditions likelier to support higher scores than at Headingley. Greg Blewett is still feeling his knee injury and England would welcome some more of Mark-Waugh's off spin, so Australia must either employ Michael Bevari's wrist-

spin or draft in Ricky Ponting. England, meanwhile, will feel mightily satisfied if they start the summer with a trophy. "I sensed there were very few who gave us a chance," Atherton said. "In a restaurant on Wednesday evening, a group of people told us as much." Already. the doubters know different; but the job is very far from complete: Whatever happens this weekend, it will only just nave begun.



SATURDAY MAY 24 1997

As British summers become warmer our open-air pools are too precious to lose, reports John Goodbody



hy are we closing our lidos?

oasis of calm in the city pleasure palace, has a special place in the nation's heart. For many lidos, this holiday weekend marks the country, they still provide swimming and sunbathing for millions of people. Indoor facilities are booming, but I am sure start of the swimming season - that if they had the chance, few the ones that are still open, that of their customers would is. In 1950, there were 150 of these magnificent outdoor water complexes spanning Britain. beating down and the water is Tragically, over the last couple more than 60F. of decades, countless lidos have been demolished, or simply closed and left to rot. This year, sphere of a heavily chlorinated fewer than 65 will be in business. And this is in a 1995, I swam four miles every country where summer tem- morning at the Parliament Hill peratures are soaring and fresh Fields lido in Hampstead. air and outdoor space becom- north London. Only a house ing rarer.

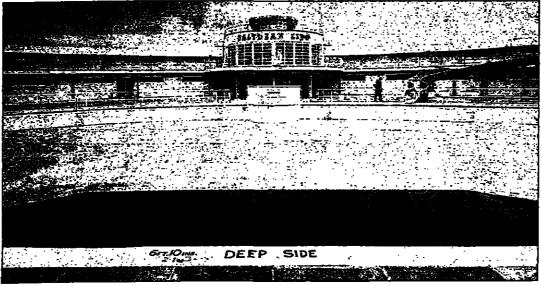
So, why aren't our lidos tailed my visits. The Parlia-ourishing? ment Hill lido, however, is one flourishing?

Blame a combination of local of the lucky ones. council curbacks, some caused by central government restraints, and changes in British social habits. Compared to wonder of modern Edincentrally heated leisure centres burgh. Finchley in north and indoor water parks, the London, which staged water surviving lidos are often con- polo games at the 1948 Olym-

he lido, whether it is an sidered anachronistic. Yet not only do many pools contribute or a glamorous seaside to the architectural legacy of the choose to swim inside instead of outdoors when the sun is

> Swimming is just not the same in the clammy atmoindoor pool. Between 1986 and move to Hertfordshire cur-

> closed recently are Portobello, described in 1926 as the fifth



Open: Parliament Hill lido (top) is as popular as ever, thanks to the Corporation of the City of London. Closed: the Art Deco lido (above) at Saltdean, Sussex — but a £1.5 million rescue package is under way

which juts out spectacularly from the cliffs into the sea. At Saltdean, near Brighton in Sussex, the Art Deco building and pool, which is Grade II listed, has been closed for the

Among the lides which have pics; and Tinside in Plymouth past two years. But the good news is that it has been saved. The magnificent site is to be restored and extended with a £1.5 million rescue package put together by businessmen on the South Coast.

The lidos, named after the beach resort in Venice, became popular in Britain between the First and Second World Wars. partly as a reflection of and a response to the German adoration of physical health and

prowess, features which were later to became contaminated in Germany through their association with the Nazis. In their untainted form, they were relatively innocent.

s Stephen Spender wrote in his autobiography World Within World: "Thousands of people went to the open-air swimming bath ... sometimes quite nude and the boys who had turned the deepest mahogany walked among the people with paler skins like kings among the courtiers. The sun healed their bodies of the years of war and made them conscious of the quivering, fluttering life of blood and muscles, covering their exhausted spirits like the pelt of an animal..."

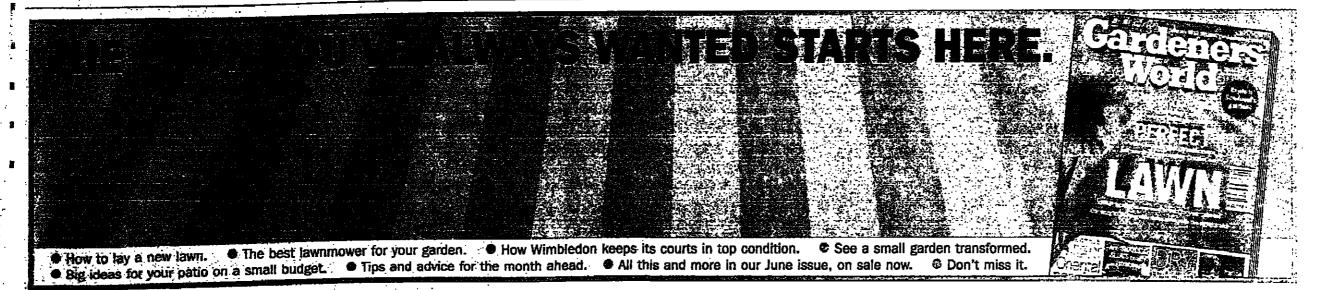
The former London County Council (LCC) opened pools across the capital in the Thirties, including Charlton and Parliament Hill Fields, and Victoria and Brockwell parks. George Lansbury, one-time leader of the Labour Party,

promoted the building of the Serpentine lido in Hyde Park. In the Thirties Society report Farewell My Lido (published in 1991), Alicia Pivaro pointed out that the lido movement was not only in favour of providing outdoor facilities for the masses, but was keen to alleviate concern about the nation's health. Swimming was valuable, but so was the sunlight, which provided certain nutrients deficient in the general diet of the time, especially the diet of undernourished, overcrowded city dwellers. Most of the lidos, therefore, were built with sufficient room for sun bathing.

Local councils around Britain, in urban areas and at the seaside, were also active. At Barry in South Wales. The Knap was built in the 1020s by registered unemployed workmen who received ten shillings a week. The pool was 120 yards long - more than twice the length of an Olympic pool and originally filled with sea

Continued on page 2

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love maps. I buy maps as other men buy shirts or as most women buy earrings for the pure pleasure of having lots of them. The first thing I do if I go to a new place is to buy a map of it. If I cannot find one I start to feel uncomfortable, the same sort of feeling you get when you have not had a decent bowel movement in the morning.

I have got five different versions of the London A-Z: Filofax, mini-Filofax-sized, mini-book, standard A5. A5 with ring-binding. And I love them all. I can happily spend an evening reading the A-Z. Well. maybe not an entire evening, but

certainly an hour or so. One night I might follow postal districts, another borough boundaries, another night tube London Underground stations. It's good.

l also possess an AA Road Atlas of the British Isles. I may actually have been exaggerating a little about the A-Z, but it is God's honest truth that I can spend a whole evening reading the mad atlas. Never mind can, I have done. I may begin by looking up one place, or tracing the journey between two places, and that leads

As men get older, we become more interested in maps and particularly in the fine detail of transport. Trains used to be our favourite transport subject: men of a certain age, of all political persuasions, can still froth at the mouth about something called the Beeching Report of 1963.

Nowadays, men love the road network. At social functions, while the women tend to talk about their

SERIOUS SHOPPING

children, the older men talk about the details of their journey to the function. "So, Geoff, you took the A451 and then the B7498, eh? And how was that? How was the traffic? Roadworks?"

I am becoming like that. Per-haps my atlas reading is a form of training for an initiation into middle age. I am 32 years old. You had better memorise the picture of me to the right, imagine how I will look - say, 15 years from now and then remember to avoid me. It gives me no pleasure to write that if you get stuck with me at somebody's wedding in 2012, you are going to get very seriously



ROBERT CRAMPTON

I have got a National Geographic Atlas of the World, I have got a Bartholomew Mini Atlas of the World. I have got a Michelin Road Atlas of France. I have got

MAPS

street guides to all the big cities I have ever been to. I know the geography of New York City intimately, although I have spent no more than a few days there. I have got a Tube map of Moscow. I know where the arrondissements are in Paris. I have got large-scale Ordnance Survey maps of many parts of the British Isles anywhere I have spent more than a day or two. If I joined them all up I could wallpaper my room - and a few others, too. I think someone should make and sell OS wallpaper. Maybe they already do.

So I suppose Stanfords in Covent Garden should be my favourite shop. But it isn't. It is a fine place, but the truth is that I hardly ever go there. I think that the people who patronise specialist shops are those who would like to think they are aficionados of the particular specialism on sale, but actually aren't

I am like that with many things - I develop an interest in something and then I express the interest by going shopping for it.

The more I shop for suchand-such, the less genuine interest I probably have in it, and then I am left with a load of things that I don't really care

Not so with maps. I like to think that my love of maps is creative rather than acquisitive. Throughof maps, I have always made my

own. As a child, I used to make plans of the places I stayed in on holiday. I invented places, too and then drew diagrams of them. I quite like doing bar charts as well. Any imaginative ability that I have has tended to be expressed in diagrams and plans as much as in pictures or words. I would quite like to mount an exhibition of my diagrams and plans and bar charts — they'd be as good as a lot

of things you see.

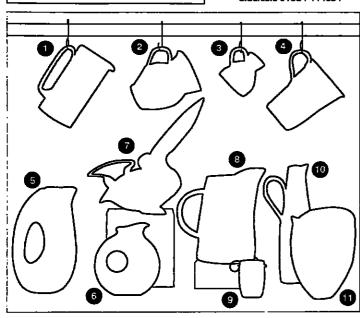
I made a map recently. It wasn't an invention. I got the five A-Z pages for the bit of east London where I live and work and blew them up to A3 on the colour photocopier. Then I Sellotaped them all together. I carry it around with me. Sometimes I get it out out my life, as well as buying lots and just stare at it, it is so



Every pitcher tells a story

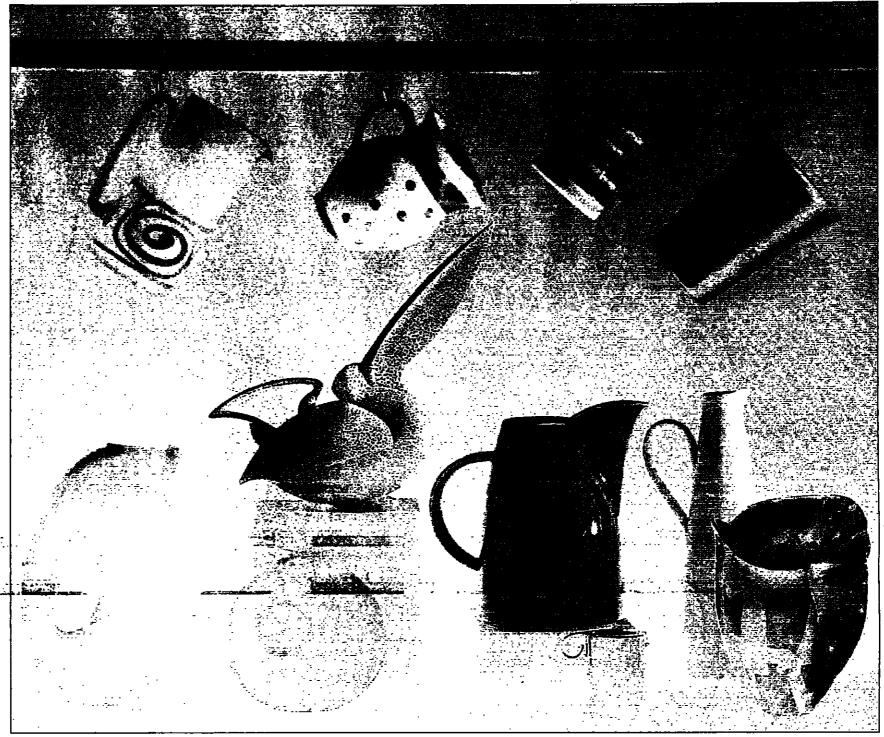
WHETHER your taste is for rustic earthenware, decorative ceramic or svelte glass, a well-proportioned, easy-pouring jug is an essential summer buy. And, says Sudi Pigott, it could also double up as a

LEFT: Visage jug, £61 10, from Blow Zone, mail order or nearest stockists 01384 444654



1 Handmade Spiral jug. £25 30, from Sherekat, nationwide stockists (0181-686 6660) 2 La Limonaia handpainted Italian pitcher decorated with citrus spots and stripes, £23, from Designer's Guild (0171-351 5775). 3 Blue and yellow jug by Andy Lloyd, £19, from Contemporary Ceramics (0171-437 7605) 4 Mexican Bombay Duck aluminium jug available in vibrant gold, pink, turquoise and purple, £24.95, from Liberty (0171-734 1234). 5 Dimple jug by Samantha Sweet, £59, from Newell, Glass, nahonwide stockists (0171-272 9341). 6 Sandblasted glass jug with bole, in. lime, mauve white, by David Wall, £52, from Contemporary Applied Arts (0171-436 2344) 7 Pelican bird jug with wings as handles and beak as spout by Anthony Theakson, £115, from Contemporary Applied Arts, as before 8 Large stoneware toucan jug with ruskin blue glaze by Tavs Jorgensen for Dartington Pottery, £65 plus £8 p&p. from Dartington Pottery (01803 864163). 9 Handmade pewter cream jug. £28 plus £1.50 p&p, from Designs Nic Wood, nearest stockists or mail order on 1-250 9297 10 Long, slim jug with white chalky glaze by Hilary Roberts, £69, from the Cratts Council Shop (0171-806 2500) 11 Decorative jug by Adam Aaronson made in a variety of colours, \$125, from the Handmade Glass Company

Photographs by Des Jenson. Styling by Caroline Griffiths





You swim as the sun comes up and feel good all day'

Continued from page ! water. Generations of local children learned to swim in the pool, which became known as the "Cold Knap". indicating some very chilly

The pool's popularity was immense in the 1930s. with bathing beauty and synchronised swimming competitions. On some sunny Bank Holidays, 3,500 people a day might spread out their towels. During the Second World War, it was used as a barrage balloon site, with dummy guns installed to try to fool the German bomber pilots into thinking that the pool was

Today. The Knap's problems are typical of those which have beset lidos across Britain. This summer its gates will stay locked. Unfortunately, only too often when such pools are closed they fall prey to vandal-ism. Then, when local opposi-

tion to the closure has subsided, they are demolished, sometimes not even being replaced with other places to have fun. Surviving lidos are lucky enough to have wealthy or

enlightened public authorities prepared to underwrite their deficits. Others have established clubs or self-help groups, which raise money to keep the lidos open. Frequently, and sadly, dedicated protests from supporters just delay the inevitable. Closure of The Knap was

first threatened in 1904, but a petition of 14,000 signatures, the largest ever on any issue in the town, kept the pool going. The Vale of Glamorgan Council, which came into existence only last year after local authority reorganisation, found that the quality of the water could not be guaranteed. New machinery and improvements costing about £300,000 were needed. The cash wasn't available. John O'Callaghan, the

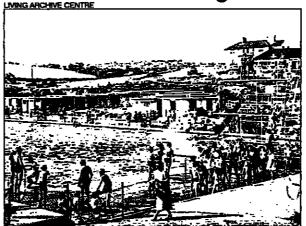
and cultural services, blames years and years of neglect. There has been a lack of investment. This council is having to underwrite the net deficit last year of £80,000. when there were 16,000 visits to the pool during the 16-week season. The council might have been prepared to do this if it hadn't been for the further cost of £300,000. We simply

can't open the place as it is". The Knap is significant not only from a social but also an architectural viewpoint. "When I first saw it I thought it was modern seaside architecture at its best," enthuses Victoria Perry, a committee member of the 20th Century Society.

As an architect, she was struck by the pair of crescentshaped changing rooms which face each other across the lido. She compares some of the design to the penguin pool at London Zoo, appropriately enough, considering the activity.

"The lido is representative of an era," Ms Perry says, "There is the creative use of reinforced concrete that does not have to have strict lines like bricks and mortar. Concrete is such a fluid material; you can make it any shape you want. The building is not listed but I think it should be."

Eunice Tucker, who led the protest against the closure when it was announced in February, and Tom Clementts. another Barry resident, are heading the fight to have the pool reopened next year. Mrs Tucker says: It is very sad, but things have been left to slide." Mr Clementts, who has rented a chalet at the pool for 30 years, believes that local authorities have preferred to put money into other recreational ventures rather than



In its heyday (above) The Knap lido at Barry attracted nearly 4,000 people on summer days, but this year it closed because of lack of funding

Neil Brown, a local councillor at Barry, is holding a "Save the Knap Pool" meeting on June 3. He hopes to secure finance from the National Heritage Lottery board because of the site's rare historical and architectural merit. I believe we have a good chance," Mr O'Callaghan says. "But when you see it now and remember the pool as it was it is pitiful. We certainly don't want to be known as the people who closed down The Knap."

Parliament Hill Fields, which opened in 1938, flourishes because of the munificence of the Corporation of the City of London, which administers Hampstead Heath, on whose southern edge the pool is situated. As Elain Harwood. another contributor to Farewell My Lido, says: "It stands as the exemplar of the LCC's lido and a monument to the ideals of fresh air and exercise

that inspired them." The long-held tradition of allowing free swimming ten months of the year in the early morning (the pool opens at continues. During heatwaves, up to 400 people a

day have indulged themselves before going off to work or to face the capital's smog. In the scorching summer of 1995, it stayed open into the early evening too, and more than 70,000 people took advantage.

Expenses are high for the pool, which is almost 67 yards long. Samples of the 780,000 gallons of water are checked for purification every two hours, lifeguards have to be on duty at all times, and the pool is regularly renovated during the winter.

aul Canneaux, the corporation's superintendent on the Heath, says that the pool usually has an annual deficit of £150,000, which the corporation is prepared to underwrite.

One regular customer, Jill Sack, the administrator of the 20th Century Society, says that swimming is only part of the experience of going to the pool. 'Children can play. People can sunbathe. The lide duplicates many of the conditions of the seaside, but in a city."

The buildings which surround the pool are typical of late 1930s design. There is the

emphasis on communal areas for sunbathing and lounging. and plenty of space for fresh air and sunshine to ease tired, city-weary limbs, both ideas that Le Corbusier exploited extensively in his architecture.

ploughed up and down, especially when I was in training for my cross-Channel swim in 1991. Concentration on finishing my session was more immediate than any interest in the architecture or the social significance of the setting. But outdoor swimming has always inspired the senses. As Charles Sprawson explains in his book, Haunts of the Black Masseur - The Swimmer As Hero, published in 1992, many 19th-century writers found it fascinating: Byron. Pushkin, Edgar Allan Poe, Flaubert, Swinburne (who wanted to write an ode to Matthew Webb's first successful crossing of the English Channel in

Even during the winter. some people continue to swim

1875), Whitman and Paul Vale-

ry, who described the activity

memorably as "fornication

at Parliament Hill. "It is exhilarating even when the water is really cold," says Harold Schickler, 54, a Parliament Hill regular. "You see the trees change during the season and even the sun I didn't always appreciate coming up. It is one of those this aesthetic angle as I things that is easier to do first

thing in the morning, and you feel better all day for doing it." Mr Schickler swims more than 600 yards most days, except in particularly chilly conditions. Like many people who appreciate the pleasures of the lido, he is drawn to water itself, not just the physical idea of swimming.

I also revelled in it. When the weather was poor and the water cold, the swimming was bracing. But I welcomed the sunny days of high summer, too, which brought families who splashed joyously in the shallow end. And it was good to see the keep-fit brigade, who would swim steadily up and down, then sunbathe and eat breakfast afterwards on the terraces.

Sometimes though, on particularly chilly days, when the water stung my face, one of my few companions on my 106 lengths of the lido was a family of mallards, which has lived in the pool for years. When the lido became crowded in midseason they were moved to Highgate ponds, a mile across the Heath, but missed the lido ambience so much that they waddled back home. For this year's summer season they will be temporarily expelled to a reservoir in Walthamstow, returning to Parliament Hill

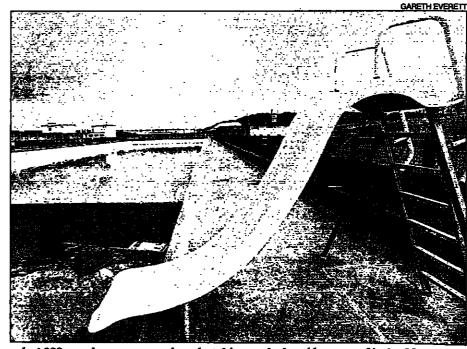
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after September. Indoor leisure centres have their advantages - not least their advantages — not least the warmth — but it is hardly surprising that countless people still prefer enjoying the same activities in the fresh air. "The more pools that disappear, the more the corporation is likely to keep this place running," says Tony Baker, assistant supervisor of the

Parliament Hill lido. How marvellous it would be if local authorities around the country could adopt this defiant attitude.

John Goodbody (top left) was 48 when he swam the English Channel, the oldest Briton to have completed the crossing in the past 18 years.





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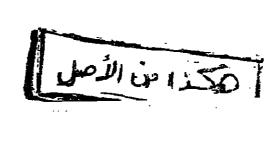
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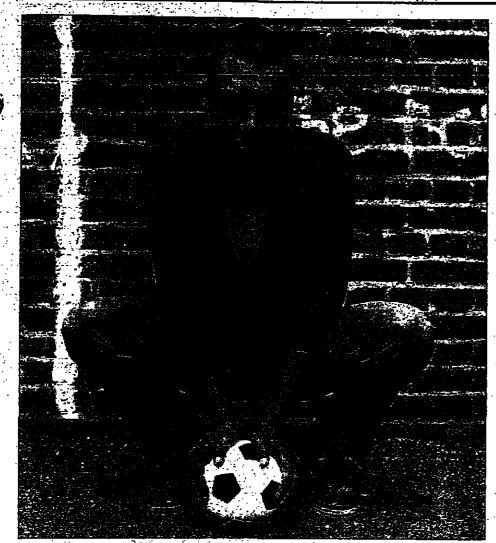
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ABOVE: Navy diagonal slinky shirt, £125, Katharine Hamnett (0171-823 1002); Harvey Nichols, SW1. V-neck vest, £49, John Crummy, 43-45 Shorts Gardens, WC2 (0171-240 3534). Grey stripe trousers, £70, French Connection (0171-580 2507). Tan suede sandals, £54,99, Lambretta (01604 847098)

The Seventies come of age

Don't sneer — Jesus sandals (with socks) and tank tops are back with a vengeance, says Heath Brown

probably never even noticed that the Seventies had finished. But wouldn't you know it, they're back. You only have to turn your back for a decade or two and suddenly there are tank tops, Jesus sandals and wide leg trousers everywhere again. It has taken its time, but finally this

trainspotter-style is back. The Seventies influence on menswear today is fresh, new jumpers and wide-leg jeans have been salvaged from the archives of The Double Deckers and Magpie, and brightly patterned tank-tops are teamed with fitted tailoring to create contemporary looks with a Seventies edge.

Shirts are tight and slimline in soft jerseys or fluid syn-thetics. They should be worn open-necked with tight, tubular short-sleeves. Bri-Nylon polo shirts, beige cotton windcheater jackets and flat-front Farah trousers are being seen

on trendy young Britpop fans. Nerdy zip-front cardigans and Sta-press action slacks have lost their cheesy connotations as a new generation rediscovers the value of easycare fashions.

for high summer, go for trunks-style shorts that are square-cut with a metal buckle canvas belt or one with a snake-clasp and wear them

with a simple, tight T-shirt. Chunky Jesus sandals or basic tennis shoes are popular for this look and original-style airline bags and schoolboy sports holdalis have made a comeback. To be part of the



true cognoscenti, wear socks with your sandals.

Brown, toffee, burnt orange, burgundy, sky-blue and washed-out green mismatched in jazzy patterns are the colours to go for. Stripes are big too as are fine golfing checks

or large-motif stars.

The image of these clothes may have once had a bad press but the new way of putting it all together is mod-ern and not at all retro.

Photographs: Richard Burns. Grooming: Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling: Amandip Uppal.



ABOVE: Coral suede safari jacket, £322, John Rocha, Liberty, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1; Jenners, 48 Prince's St, Edinburgh (0171-734 0123). Blue corduroy trousers, £30, Principles, branches nationwide (0171-927 1443)

LEFT: Beige cord jacket, £135; matching trousers, £49.95, Jigsaw Menswear, 9-10 Floral Street, WC2; 76-80 King St, Manchester (0171-240 5651). Orange knitted tank-top, £155. Paul Smith, 41-44 Floral St, WC2 (0171-379 7133). Tan sandals, £54.99, Lambretta, Natural Shoe Store, 21 Neal Street, WC2: G.Shock, 55 Neal Street, WC2 (01604 847098)

LEFT: White blue/grey V-neck vest, £49, John Crummy, 43-45 Shorts Gardens, WC2 (0171-240 3534). White stretch black stripe shorts, from £39, Emporio Amani, 191, Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818)

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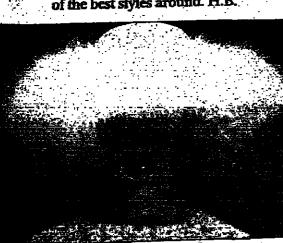
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Why not stand out in the crowd this year at Ascot with a new, dramatic hat? Here are three of the best styles around. H.B.



ABOVE White merabou satio hat, 265. Accessioniza, branches - nationwide (0171-313 3000)

PARCE SWITTER. 285, Herald & Heart tathers, 131 St Philip St.





ABOVE: Black straw, white arrow hat, from £600, to order. Philip Treacy, 69 Elizabeth Street, SW1 (0171-259 9605)

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

A gale blew down a thorn tree into which grew a Rosa Jilipes 'Kiftsgate' and I have cut the remaining rose down to 6st. Should I plant another tree where the rose stands, or move it to grow into a very old 'Beauty of Bath apple? It is a very windy garden. - Mrs R.A. Burn, Wundbridge, Suffolk.

Kilisgate is outra-geously vigorous and I cannot think of a tree fastgrowing enough to escape the cluiches of this established rose. You would need to keep the rose off the young tree for five to six years before letting battle commence, if all you need is

a fast-growing climbing frame for the rose, put in a 3ft Alnus rubra, a fairly unremarkable species of alder, which will make 25ft in four to five years and then slow down Alternatively. dig out the 'Kiftsgate' and plant a smaller rose which will not smother a new small tree. Or, you could just let the 'Kiftsgate' grow on its own: it will mound up as high as a thorn tree without much trouble.

My huge, 20ft lantern tree. Crinodendron hookerianum. is looking sad, despite recent mild winters, and gales have browned the tips of the leaves. When and how could I prune the several thick trunks? - Mrs J.P. Woodward, Anglesey.

A This tree does not respond well to heavy pruning of old boughs. It would be interesting to hear other readers experiences with it. I would out down low one or two of the front branches next February or March, choosing those whose absence will admit light to the base of the plant. Make sure it does not have a dry year, and see what happens. Successful recutting the other trunks over the next two to three years. A height of 20ft is big for a lantern tree, and it may be that yours is gradually coming to the end of its life. You may prefer to let it go gracefully, take cuttings.

We have a garden on a Welsh hillside and the soil is poor. We cannot get horse manure, but there is lots of sheep manure around. Is it worth using? — Dr R. Martin.

and replace it when it

finally goes. Plants from cuttings flower even when

small, so you will not be

long without those droop-

ing red lanterus.

A from never bring my-self to call dry linle sheep droppings "manure". I always think of manure as steaming and sloppy and ~ by the time it reaches the gardener - well mixed with straw. Sheep droppings have none of the fibre of stable manure (cow or horses and so the result is less useful in terms of building soil structure. On the other hand, it is a useful fertiliser, and on poor soil every little helps. Putting a few lumps around plants in need of a lift works perfectly well - and I find it deters rabbits from grazing just at that spot. About 2in-3in of sheep droppings left in a bucket of water makes an excellent liquid feed. Dilute to the plants' taste, and keep a lid on the bucket for the sake of nasal decorum. Sheep droppings would also make an excellent addi-

Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London E19XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

tion to your garden's com-

Helping hand for hire

Stephen Anderton on the problems of finding the right

part-time gardener to look after your precious plants

f only I could find some real help with the garden," goes the cry. someone to come in one afternoon a week, or even a day, who knows what to do and can be relied upon to get on with it." The cry is not uncommon. Finding a skilled part-time gardener is difficult. 'i can find basic help. people say, "but what I need is someone who knows the plants: someone who won't weed out things I've planted. my treasures; someone who

can prune well." It is a serious gap in the job market. I have known older people, keen gardeners, even leave the house and garden they have spent a lifetime creating rather than see it deteriorate - even when they can afford help.

And there's the rub; money. How much should you pay for a gardener? Perhaps £10-£12 an hour for someone who really knows his alliums? A fiver for someone who'll do a perfectly reasonable job? About 53-64 for a pair of hands? It might sound a lot. but you could pay £7-£12 an hour for work from a large landscape contractor, because of all his commercial and administrative costs. In central London, it could rise to 525 an hour, not least because of parking costs.

The gardener in me believes that I cannot begrudge a really good freelance gardener his \$10 an hour — that's £21,000 a year, with no pension and no security, working come rain, come shine, and come backache when he or she is sixty. A year ago Martyn Hird

was a working head gardener with 20 acres of rare trees and shrubs in his care. Now he is freelancing three days a week from his home in Crawley. West Sussex. The other two days he looks after his baby daughter, Jessica, because his wife works full-time.

He has just a handful of clients, and can earn £80-£100 a day. But is he worth it? The has to lie in the fact that he never needs to adver- and Guilds Horticulture while



tise, such is the demand for skilled freelance gardeners, even on the stately home circuit, where the best jobs are filled by word of mouth.

working in a parks depart-ment, before taking a diploma at Askham Bryan College in Yorkshire. He then worked for two years at Levens Hall, that Borde Hill in West Sussex under the then head gardener John Humphris, who is now chairman of the Professional Gardeners' Guild. Finally, his abilities got him the job of a

head gardener in Sussex, where he stayed for II years. Mr Hird is an indefatigable visitor of gardens, as all working gardeners should be. I first met him ten years ago, when he spent his holiday fortnight driving a Luton van throughout Britain, collecting plants from his head gardener cronies for the guild's show garden at the Glasgow Garden Festival. His business

card now says, "Martyn Hird, Professional Gardener". "Not Landscape Gardener"," he says, "because I can find myself doing anything from growing tomatoes to designing and planting a large

r Hird also likes to apply the same principles and long-term eye to a small garden as he did to one of 30 acres.

Some of his clients want him simply to keep the garden tidy and to a high standard of maintenance for 365 days a year. Others, with perhaps a few acres of garden, employ him to undertake major new developments during the win-ter, and these, especially, are the clients with whom he hopes to stay for a number of years to see the results of their collaboration. This kind of work is important because a freelance gardener needs employment in vile, cold January just as much as in the easy

growing months. Maybe the clever client is_ one who knows how to hang on to his gardener, and to make full use of his talents in every season.

But does Mr Hird think he is worth £10 an hour? People. are paying for my knowledge and my skills. I have had enough offers to work five days a week if I wanted, but until Jessica is older I shall stick to three. Surrey and Sussex are far from being poor areas, so I should be all right. And I make sure I am reliable. I tend to take over from people who charge 15 an hour and don't always turn up I am

FINDING HELP

FIRST ASK YOURSELF.

Do I expect him/her to know more about gardening than me? For example, who decides when things need dividing, or sowing, or

Do I need an ornamental plant lover and plantsman, or a good vegetable and cuiflower grower, or just someone to tidy up?

☐ How much can I afford to pay a week?

Whose tools will be used. his or mine?

□ Will he do any necessar spraying, or will I - or will it be all organic? Do I want him/her here on a day I am at home to explain things, or should he be more or less able to get on with it while I am out? Do I want all jobs tidied up at the end of each day, or each week for the weekend. ☐ Do I want someone flexible enough to work more some weeks and less at other

ASK THE GARDENER.

☐: Can you achieve the needs I've listed above? ☐ Show me any qualifications you have. including the vital certificate for pesticide use if I choose to

spray.

| What, exactly, do you know about plants? What is your experience elsewhere? Can you give me a couple of phone numbers of other people you have worked for (if he/she has not been recommended to you). ☐ Have you seen the kinds of plants in my garden? And what do you think of them? ☐ Are you good with machines and engines? ☐ What skills do you pride yourself on? ☐ Would you prefer to spend all day behind the lawn mower, or keep the borders immaculate?

AND THEN.

☐ Consider whether you would get on together. ☐ Agree day and hours of work, lunch periods and so on, and a procedure for what will happen if he/she cannot come on a particular day. Agree hourly rate of pay. Put all this into writing for you both to refer to.

always there on the agree day for the agreed hours.

Of course, it can be a lonely business working on your own all day, instead of with other gardeners. But for this I don't need henchmen. All I need is good health, a private pension and a car to get me there. That's why I am cheaper than upmarket contractors."

And he's right. He might miss-the long-term satisfac-tions of running a large garden open to the public, but if he can earn more money in less time this way, then perhaps he is right to choose the freelance life.

The irony is that any head gardener could be tempted away from an important garden by freelancing. It is fine for Mr Hird's clients, but a sad day for some of the smaller historic gardens.

DAY 1

DAY 2 - 4



DAY 5 - 7

DAY 10 - 14 AgrEvo ready-to-use Garden and Patio Weed Killers act fast to kill a whole range of common

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A collector's park reborn



Wohurn is one of England's most majestic parkland settings, and this weekend it stages a festival of gardening

■ Kingston Bagpuize House, Near Abingdon, Oxfordshire (01865 820259)

Off A420 at Kingston Bagpuize, on A415 to Ahingdon, Open today, tomorrow and Monday, and June 11, 14. 15: July. 9. 12, 13: Aug 6. 9, 10, 23, 24, 25. Sept 5, 6, 7, 17, 20, 21. All 230-5 April (last entry 5pm), £1, children under five free.

The house makes an impressive statement when first seen from the road, facing on to a broad sweep of lawn and a beach avenue that crosses the road. In the past two years, much renovation has been carried out in the garden that was built up into a considerable plant collection by Martie Raphael, who lived here from 1930 until 1976 She extended the garden beyond the existing formal lawns and porders in front of and to the north of the house to create the woodland garden and the large shrub border that lies on the far

side of the garden park.

The division between the main lawn. with yew hedges, a fountain and mixed rose and perennial borders, is marked by a raised terrace walk that most probably produtes the existing house, leading to an isth-century gazebo. As well as extensive replanting in the woodland garden,

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

garden park and shrub border, there has been identification work of the numerous rare species that Miss Raphael collected, or was given by her gardening friends.

Woburn Abbey, Woburn. Bedfordshire (01525 290666)

Signed from M1. Private garden and maze open this Monday; maze only, Aug 17: 11.30am-4.30pm; National Gardens Scheme admission El. The park only, daily Mar-Nov, 10.30am-1.30pm; Sat and Sun in Jan-Feb. 10.30am-3.45pm. £5 a car,

The house stands in one of England's most majestic parkland settings, still grated by deer. This weekend, a festival of gardening, with a good quantity of horticultural and other gardening stands, will be staged in the main car park. On:

Monday, the private gardens are open. The hornbeam maze is the most. impressive and unusual feature to be discovered, but there is also the mixture of herbaceous borders and roses, which will he on the brink of flowering, as will the water lilies in the pools.

Llysdinam, Newbridge on-Wye. Powys (01597 860200)

Near Llandrindod Wells, west of A479 at Newbridge; cross River Wye, entrance on right up hill. Open Mon and Aug 10, 2-6pm, £2, children free.

I first visited Llysdinam more than ten years ago and not only does it retain the same sense of discovery for the visitor, but also the charm of an undisturbed establishment. The white-painted house faces over lawn and mature trees to a breathtaking view over the Wye Valley to the Weish hills. On one side, the lawns merge into woodland and a walk leads between banks of rhododendron and azalea.

Beyond a gateway in a yew hedge lies perhaps the most delightful area, the enclosed kitchen garden whose central path slopes gently downhill to a gateway whose piers topped with stone balls perfectly frame the view out over the valley. Flower borders and orderly plots of vegetables are arranged around a central wooden pergola draped with vines and other climbers, and here Llysdinam's rare combination of seclusion and unspoilt setting is at its best.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

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If you have a grand design but space is limited, it pays to choose your plants carefully, says Nigel Colborn

The small garden with big ideas

these are but minor afflicproblem, and one which seems to preoccupy aimost every gardener, is lack of space. Making the wisest and most artistic use of a garden -enough, but if yours is small, and you want to maximise its yearround allure, you will have to make some tough decisions.

But a small garden need never be imited. The boundaries are merely lines within which the artistic reation is to be set, and a tiny backyard can be as delightful as a couple of acres in the country. To chieve speciacular results simply hoose the best plants.

Canny design is important to give the impression of space. Tempting pathways that disappear around corners, double-acting vis-as which look different from pposite ends and arches which give the impression of being enrances but which lead nowhere all nelp expand the sense of acreage. But, although some avant-garde lesigners might disagree, a preequisite to success is the ability to elect plants wisely and use them

Indeed, it is the constant change, not merely season by season, but.

BOOK OFFER

GREAT Plants for Small Gardens by Nigel Colborn is published by Conran Octopus on May 29, and is available to readers for £15.50, instead of the recommended price of £17.99. To order your copy call 01733 371999 with credit card details, or send a cheque, payable to Reed Book Services, to Conran Octopus Direct, 43 Stanledon Road, Orton Southgate, Peterboroug PE26TD, quoting H234.

whole thing work. The barriers and screens which divide the area are effective because they provide extra vertical surfaces on which to grow plants. And where one climber would suffice, three or four would be better, especially if they were selected to do different things — flower, leaf, berry — in different

In a tiny garden, every planting opportunity must be exploited. Group containers where digging is impossible; wall bases or dark corners can be colonised by drought lovers or ferns; paving cracks can be furnished with durable plants and a roof can carry houseleeks or succedents. Views from windows are important and it can even be part of the planter's brief to connect interiors and exteriors by co-ordinating windowsill plants with borders outside.

banting schemes need shape and structure. Designers and gardeners often talk about a garden needing "good bones", meaning that a strong outline is essential. If the bones are not well knit and well proportioned, the flesh - or fill-in planting — will not be cornely. natural dynamism will need exploiting, not merely allowing for seasonal changes, but getting the timing right so the months go by, a series of colourful climates will be separated by quieter spells.

Hedges make bones, of course as do carefully placed shrubs or trees. But in a small garden, you need to ponder on what that particular tree or hedge will contribute in the off-season. Traditionalists swear by yew, for example, the topiarists dream plant, clippable to any shape and a good dark colour to back pretty borders, but in a restricted garden you may prefer something livelier, that flowers, bears berries or at least changes. Beech is a gentle, neutral green in summer, but makes a delicious tan contrast with dark-



ا حكدًا من الأصل

Design is important. Arches which give the impression of being entrances but lead nowhere all help expand the sense of space

Once the outline is in place, you can tinker about with in-fill plants. Contrasting with colours and textures becomes fun, using flower, foliage and fragrance to create a whole series of moods and flavours. Your choice of plants is important, but not half so much as how you

In shade, pale flowers and bright foliage provide highlights but in well-lit areas they might look well-lit areas they might look washed out or tawdry. Strong hot colours - scarlet and orange - will fade as night falls, killing joy in a border unless there are white or cream flowers to take over in the twilight. A blood red rose or peony glows in the sun, but in shade you don't even see it.

So out of the 60,000 varieties in cultivation, which plants will you select for your small garden? No easy choice, especially if, as for most gardeners, they nearly all appeal. The answer is to limit the choice to what might be termed

Greatness comes from a combination of attributes. First of these is

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Check gooseberry bushes for mildew and sawfly caterpillars. which defoliate a bush in two days. Spray with derris or malathion.

Cut off strawberry plant runners. Remove sideshoots from indoor tomato plants, and keep well fed.

Tall herbaceous plants, such as delphiniums, which need support later should be staked now. Dahlias can be planted and, in the south, bedding plants may be set out in the ground and in pots. Divide polyanthus and primroses

Hungry climbers on walls, such as clematis, should be given fortnightly liquid feed to ensure adequate moisture at the roots and To weaken and kill bracken, cut down stalks at about 18in high,

just as the side branches start to expand. Several years of this starves the plant to death without the use of chemicals. Crocus leaves in rough grass can be mown now.

beauty, or if you prefer, character. Grace of shape and form are important, as is growth habit, but the beauty has to be sustained. Penstemons, for example, bloom riotously from June to frost. Versatility helps: oriental poppies, though gorgeous, are too short-lived to deserve space, except that

you can cut them hard back after flowering and put summer flowers - pelargoniums perhaps - into the resulting gap.

Off-season beauty is important. The Chinese tree peonies, also weekend wonders, are ravishing in full bloom, but have ugly, stumpy winter outlines. Their herbaceous

relatives, however, sport fancy seed heads - like a court jester's hat and handsome, dark early foliage which contrasts well with tulips. Cherries wear their finery for a week but one species, Prunus sargentii, follows its pink blossoms with red and russet autumn foliage, shiny bark and a handsome winter

outline. Rules, though, are made for breaking. Regardless of suitability. everyone includes at least a few plants that they love - and why not? Despite their vulgarity. I go for those big Durch crocuses. Not only do they flower at a foul time of the year but who could fail to be moved by the cheerful pyjama stripes on their petals? And to go with them, a virus-prone shrublet that is neither great, nor even showy, but for sweetness of fragrance and modest charms is more beautiful than the most sophisticated lily or orchid: the common daphne, Daphne mezereum, which, when I was tiny, wafted its scent through my nursery window. I've never lived in a

garden without it.

Best in a limited space

Small tree. One of the best small maples with vivid green foliage, comely shape and rich gold autumn colour.

Clematis 'Bill McKenzie'. Climber. A vigorous orange-peel dematis with large yellow lantern-like blooms and masses of fluffy seedheads. Best of a good group (almost all clematis are great plants).

Dianthus Doris'. A modern border pink, soft salmon with darker carmine flower centres. sweet fragrance and perpetual habit. Excellent for cutting.

Eschscholzia. Californian Poppy. Annual. Hot, cheerful colours from salmon to vivid orange: dependable flowering. even in hot, dry conditions. Good modern selections include Mission Bells'.

Fuchsia magellanica. Shrub, but can be cut back as perennial. Common in mild western districts, hut sought-after in the cold east. Endless succession of slender wine red and damson flowers on slender

Helleborus Oriental Hybrids'. Herbaceous perennial. Evergreen. Bold, five-petalled February flowers in colours ranging from sombre purples through greenish pinks to clean white. Some blooms are

spotted or stippled. ■ Ilex aquifolium 'Green Pillar. Tree. A neat, upright version of traditional Christmas holly. Prolific with berries if there are male plants

in the vicinity. ■ Prunus incisa 'Kojonomai'. Dwarf shrub. A tiny cherry with sugar pink blossom, venerable gnarled banches and vivid tan. rust and red autumn colour.

■ Viburnum farreri. Shrub. Most graceful of the winterflowering shrubs with pale pink or white blooms, richly fragrant, appearing from November to January.

■ Viola cornuta, Mat-forming perennial. Constant run of pretty blue violet blooms, each with a small horn at the back of the petals. Vivid blue, but also available in white, 'Alba' or pale lilac blue 'Lilacina'.

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A manoir for all seasons

Jane Owen talks to the French-born chef about his obsession with creating the perfect

garden and the problem of furry intruders

They were so beautiful, so voung, and one night they were ravished. Overnight All of them." says Raymond Blanc, the Frenchborn chef whose accent can cause the most slovenly souffle to rise; an accent he has failed to lose in 25 years of feeding the rich in Britain. He is talking about young vegetables and their assailants - rabbits. "But I understand the rabbits." he says. "When they saw these perfect courgettes, spring greens and broccoli, they knew they were the best; so young, so tender.

things for them to eat but they had learnt good taste. They wanted only my so beautiful young plants." Pest control fanatics all have their favourite method - say, squash the rubbits at full moon and

so sweet; and that is why they ate

them. I had educated the rabbits. I

tried putting out leaves and other

dangle the bodies over the marrows - but M Blane's approach to rabbit control at his hotel and restaurant, Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons near Oxford, is something else.

"I looked for the final solution: I shot, ferreted and gassed," he says. In the end I planted a wire-mesh fence that goes 30cm under ground." Every day, even in winter, M Blanc roams his garden, some-times using a dictaphone to message his head gardener. Anne Marie Owens I spend half an hour a day in the garden, early in the morning or late, sometimes when it is dark. It is an introspective time. I get ideas. It is quiet. I think."

If he can't make the Manoir's weekly staff meeting, at which the kitchen staff fantasise about the new herbs and vegetables they need and the garden staff explain why they can't be grown, he insists on seeing the minutes.



This obsession with detail ex-plains the perfection of the Cotswold stone walled Manoir garden: herbaceous borders, huge clumps the evergreen Euphorbia characias ssp. wulfenii. purple velvet Iris reticulata, rosemary. low lavender hedges, thyme creeping between the paving stones on the paths that criss cross the garden and arches with laburnum or crab apple trained over them. Clematis, wisteria and Magnolia grandiflo-

ra loll against the grey stone walls of the 15th-century house. At the entrance there is a cascade of green from a prostrate rosemary forced upright, the inspiration of the garden's designer, John Hill. And, in the centre of the flower garden, the modern-day equivalent of a hermit: the hotel's florist, Sarah Goodsell, works in a stone bothy.

Perfection is all and so is youth, especially in the vegetable garden

ME AND MY GARDEN: RAYMOND BLANC ant. The Japanese garden is peacewhere the tastiest produce is de-

manded, especially as M Bianc puts it, the "pure and noble bean; my father was so particular never to have vulgar or fibrous beans".

eyond the orchard where in spring a sea of pale purple crocuses light the ground under one of two old apple trees, and beyond the traditional English garden, the pond and the vegetable garden, is a Japanese garden. It has a carp pond and tea house, and pine trees in the process of being trained in the Japanese style. But it is the least convincing area of the garden partly because the boulders, which can take Japanese designers years to choose, do not suit the place. "The English garden is exuber-

ful and calm," says M Blanc, who certainly needs tranquillity: he is twice divorced, having recovered from a stroke, still hands-on in the kitchen and battling over expansion plans. Today, M Blanc no longer has

time to work in the garden; he has "given up the shove!". But when he was a child in Saone in eastern France there was no choice. "I used to hate gardening," he says. "It gives me such painful memories. My father made me do harvesting and podding and planting trees. Never the creative work. I had to remove the weeds and the stones." He later took revenge with a curious decoration in the middle of his father's lawn: a circle of irregularly shaped stones, with wild flowers planted in their

But in the nearby woods the young Raymond, "kept pure on a diet without television or posmography", would roam "in rhythm with the seasons. In summer, wild raspherries would cascade by the million. Ruby red, they ching to the

It was a different story when he bought the Manoir. The vegetable garden, then his chief concern, was a mass of ground elder and nettles.

And dead brussels sprous, he says. So English. This is like epitome of bad cuisine and bad gardening. A kitchen garden was essential. That project and restor-ing some of the gardens cast £750,000. "It was a labour of love." Now there are 80 varieties of

heib — including unusual oriental; ones and lemon grass — and 150; varieties of vegetable. The garden is all organic and, by next year, M: Blanc is hoping to have attained a Soil Association certificate to giveofficial recognition to his organic methods, which is another of his

great passions.

M Blanc has great plans for the garden. Next year, he will plant potatoes and carbages and other crops in a six-acre field so that fresh tables can be served throughout the year. The polytunnels will be replaced by £600,000 worth of glasshouses, home to peaches, apricots, grapes and vegetables. Guests. will be invited to view. The rest of us will just have to use our

The gardens of Le Manoir aux Quar Saisons, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 TPD (01844 Z78881) are open only to guests of the hotel or restaurant.

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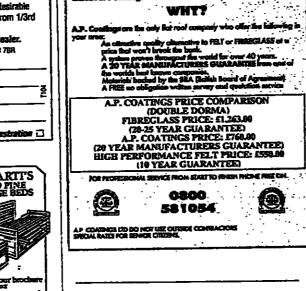
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Stop for a cream tea and you could be ensnared by this Dartmoor hostelry with its own ghost



Rural idyll: Bearslake Inn. a thatched longhouse converted from old farm buildings in the Dartmoor National Park, is the stuff of a thousand chocolate boxes

Dewar hamlet of Lake, should be viewed only on a miserable winter afternoon with the sleet sweeping down off the barren granite tors of the Dartmoor National Park that rise just behind this old storie, thanched longhouse. Even then there is precious little chance of keeping a grip on the commonsense that would stop you saying.
"Where do I sign?" before the e date agent has unbuckled his seat belt. On a warm and gentle May morning you're done for - this is the stuff of a thousand chocolate boxes; even the moor, forbidding and unimpressed by global warming, was almost flirtatious,

dressed in yellow gorse. Unlike many Devon inns, this one did not start life as a coachman's rest or smoke blackened smugglers' den; but evolved from 20th century free enterprise. Originally part of the Leawood Estate where, until recently, tenants still naid their ten-shilling rents on Lady Day and at Michaelmas. these farm buildings were saved from demolition in the Faded septa photographs, 1960s by a Mr Sweet who vrescued from the loft, of the potted the commercial potenfarm's horses, mop-capped milkmaids, ditchers in flat tial, of passers by constantly stopping to photograph his beautiful property and his old Aivis cars. The long suffering Mrs Sweet was promptly ordered to produce cream teas on demand in the 17th century beamed stone barn, now the bar with pews rescued from a

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church on the moor. Commerce spread to the adjoining dairy, shippen and three faciniworkers cottages which, forming a line of small rooms interfinited by timber-framed openings in the Statick walls, became a lounge. offices, breakfast room and kitchen. Passing through walls rather than doors is spoky, as no doubt Annie, the resident ghost of a Victorian magien who fell downstairs and broke her neck, could confirm; but alas she doesn't communicate, merely thumps about a bit in the dead of night and means no harm; they never do in houses for sale.

The inn on the park





Above: a dairy, shippen and three farm cottages were converted for inn use and are interlinked by timber-framed openings in the 5ff-thick stone walls Left: low, old beams, a wooden staircase and inglenook fireplace in the hall

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

 The Bearslake Inn. Lake, Sourton, near Okehamoton, Devon and primary school in Bridetowe about a mile away; nearest supermarket in Okehampton (six miles) or, the owners' choice, Tavistock (ten miles) • Travel: Exeter (about 30 minutes on a dual certiageway) and Plymouth 30 miles; about 2½ hours by train from Exeter to Paddington (weekday return £79) ● Pastimes: No shortage of long country walks; the more energetic can climb the tors or windsurf on the nearby Meldon reservoir.

roof as a symbol of prosperity. thatch being a cheap by-product of the farm. and fancy cornices and there Parts of the inn date from are virtually none of those little prissy features pounced the 13th century, with trap on by interior designers. If you doors and hidden staircases: gently undulating floorfeel the need for an everboards; rough, plastered walls changing witty decor to express your personality, this that are strangers to spirit levels; enough exposed beams, Grade II listed building would some at concussion height, to be limiting to the point of

caps and rabbit trappers with

he photos also prove

ings have changed, though the owner's separate, thatched farmhouse

originally had a galvanised tin

how, little the build-

ished rural society.

build a man-o'-war; no-nonsuffocation. sense fireplaces with bread Bearslake is not typical; ovens and roughly bewn gran-ite mantles stubbornly resismost farm buildings sought greater shelter away from the moor, but here you cross the tant to tarting up. Farmworkers were not much given to delicately carved panelling back lawn past the fast-running stream, scooped out

where the Sweet grandchildren bathed, and the new season's strawberries and raspberries, straight to the bridle path that leads on to the moor, without your feet touch-

ing an inch of Tarmac. Sitting just inside the National Park border guarantees that your view won't be blighted by a superstore, but it does add another layer of heritage bureaucracy to wrestle with should you want to fiddle with the building's fabric. The own-

ers, Ray and Thelma Taylor.

were denied permission to tidy up a tatty tin-roofed lean-to because this was declared "part of old Devon".

The inn, with its six letting rooms, is being sold £295,000. In the commercial market, the bottom line that dictates selling price is annual turnover. The Taylors have a splendidly relaxed attitude: they baulked at spending their semi-retirement slumped exhausted over the Aga, slaves to profit margins, and have been content to let the inn bring in enough to bankroll renovations and the building of the large dining room.

The clientele for a drink, tea. a meal or a bed are still the passing trade lured off the road, as in the days of Mr Sweet. On a May Monday morning, an Age Concern coach party, all white hair and white cardigans, stopped for coffee; lunch guests were from Brisbane, Teignmouth, Virginia, Oklahoma and Okehampton. The menu included soup and sandwiches, home-

cheese and fresh lobster - but no Cornish pasties because the French chef refuses to serve them.

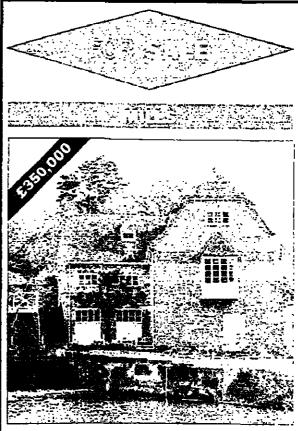
Five of the large A-framed en suite letting rooms, converted from the hay loft, saddle room and stable, have separate entrances. They are almost spartanly furnished, but the hillwalker, dripping with Dartmoor mist and mud, whose priorities are unlimited hot water and a decent bed rather than country house ambience, might put a severe strain on more upmarket pale linen sofas and delicately embroidered counterpanes.

owever, this property is what you want it to be: a rural home that welcomes travellers without fuss or advertising, a place to expand and launch the Marco Pierre White of the West; or to do what the Taylors once considered: convert the inn back into a private house and then, perhaps, let the rooms and farmhouse on a self-

catering basis. I'd go for the house conversion, though the estate agent felt obliged to drag me sharply back to reality by pointing out the hassles of planning permission, ripping out the indus trial kitchen, and the lack of privacy and accessibility to

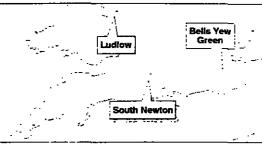
tourists with cameras. What the hell. I'd plant what I am sure would be an illegal, large boundary hedge and, when the style police raided the premises, invite them in for a drink, but I wouldn't offer a Devon cream tea. Look what happened last time.

CHRISTINE WHEELER ■ Agent: Knight Frank, Exeter (01392 493101).



Will Territor.

The Old Mill House, South Newton, Salsbury Converted former medleval mill house overlooking a mill pond in the heart of the Wylye Valley. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, mill room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility. Large timber barn. About £350,000 (McKillop & Gregory, 01722 414747)





Bartley Mill, Bells Yew Green, Frant. Pretty Grade II listed mill house and attached water mill in 42 acres of pardens, water me Four bedrooms, three bathrooms (one en suite), two reception roo study and kitchen. Mill with grain store, hursting room, mill shop, storerooms, cloakrooms and offices. Brick outbuilding and barn. Trout lakes, fishing pond and mill pond. About £495,000 (Knight



Ludford Mill, Ludlow. Historic converted Grade II issted former mill in 1.5 acres of beautiful riverside gardens with tennis court and fishing rights on the River Teme. Six bedrooms, four bathrooms, sitting room. drawing room, kitchen/dining room and basement. About \$290,000 (Knight Frank, 01432 273087).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Kilim me softly on the floor

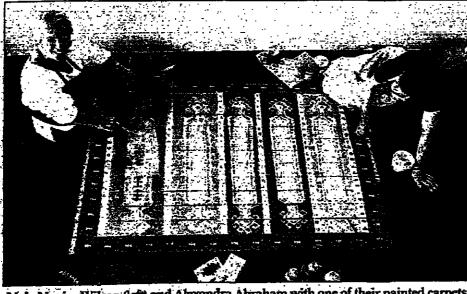
Why pay for an expensive **Furkish carpet** when you can paint one?

f carpets do not seem compatible with your fam-

ily and pets, or you simply

want a new look for an old floor, painting a carpet on to the floor can be a great solution. They are forgiving to didy shoes and muddy paws, look stunning and are easy for amateurs to create. Most floor types are suitable painting including cork. chipboard and Boorboards. When painting a large area such as a floor, the arm is to create an overall effect rather than worseling about finer detail. For the cost of the emilsion. You can experiment: with different styles and, if you don't like the look, you can simply paint over it and start again. Paint effect tiles are fun and practical for kitchens and bathrooms in other rooms you could experiment with a modern prise rug or a rustic Turkish kilim which can be painted over a small area or minds me of my holidays."

myer the winderfoor. Nota Napier-Wilson and Alexandra Abraham have recently opened a studio. Special Effects, in Highgate, north



Nota Napier-Wilson (left) and Alexandra Abraham with one of their painted carpets

London, where they teach are many books with good short courses in decorative photographs of kilims or you finishes. One of their first steps when decorating the studio was to paint files on the floor. Nota was so pleased with the result that she decided to paint a kilim on her bedroom floor. She says: "I love painted floors because they are durable, fun and inexpensive. The kihm in my bedroom is bright and re-

How to paint a kilim Decide on the size of rug you want and choose your favourite design and colours. There could look through oriental carpet store brochures. The less ornate patterns will be easier to achieve and may well

look more effective. A killim can be painted using standard emulsion paints which will give a fairly flat finish. Tester pots of emulsion can be bought in most paint shops and are a cheap way to experiment.

To add more depth and tone to the paint, use water-based -scumble glaze mixed with acrylic artist's paint or emulsion.

Preparing your floor The floor should be cleaned thoroughly as any wax or grease will make the paint separate. If you are painting on old chipboard, cork or floorboards, clean the floor with sugar soap to remove all grease. If the floorboards have been varnished, you will need to sand them - by hand or hire a sanding machine if you

On with the paint 1. Most kilim patterns are symmetrical, with simple geometric designs and colours. Use tracing paper to make a

want a professional finish.

grid on your photo that will give you a guide to the positioning of motifs on your floor (for example, each photo square might be 2cm, which will equal 20cm on your floor). 2. Mark the borders of your rug on the floor with a light pencil and paint the area with two base coats of white emulsion. Leave to dry.

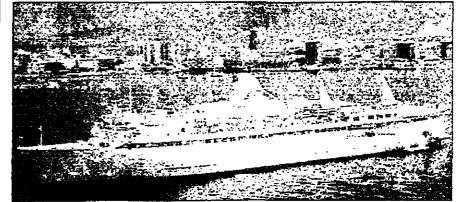
3. Paint on one coat of the background colour of the grid and leave to dry. 4. Use string and Blu-tak to mark out the squares of the

grid to scale on your floor. 5. The kilim motifs can then be painted freehand onto the base colour. If you are not confident about painting freestyle, draw the motifs onto card and cut out a stencil to paint inside. Do not worry too much about inaccuracies as most kilims have some irregular patterns. 6. To achieve a hardwearing finish, use a roller to apply three or four coats of a waterbased varnish.

For advice and products for painting a floor (mail order available) contact: Foxell and James, 57 Farringdon Road, London ECIM 3JB (0171-405 0152 or 0171-405 2487). For further information on Special Effects decorative paint courses, contact: Special Effects, 251 Archway Road, Highgate, London No 5BS, (0181-348 1182).

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The Times, and Ashley Stephenson, gardening expert. For bookings made by the end of July, prices start at E699 per person for a three birth cabin. Port charges, insurance, drinks and gratuities are extra. There are excellent restaurant, leisure and emertainment facilities on board the Black Prince which can carry 440 passengers.

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Invasion of the stop-gap renters

sellers are alraid of missing out on increasingly buoyan prices, yet the scarcity of available houses and flats means they struggle to find something to buy, many people are turning to renting as a stop-gap solution.

As a knock-on effect, the cost of renting is escalating - prices have risen by up to 20 per cent in some areas over the past six months according to Hamptons International, and agents across the country are telling the same story.

About 10 per cent of tenancies in the first three months of this year were taken by people who had sold houses but found nothing to buy. Hamptons International says. Lundon agents are inundated

with stop-gap renters. Wetherells of Mayfair reports that the number of would-be stop-gap renters on its books has doubled in two months, while Douglas & Gordon lettings in Battersea is swamped by the overspill from its sales department.

Friend & Falcke in Chelsea reckons that 10 per cent of its tenants are renting because they have sold their homes at a high price and haven't been able to find anywhere to buy.

Agents out of the capital quote

even bigger percentages. Alison Muller, of Knight Frank in Oxford, says that about 25 per cent of her tenants are stop-gap renters. Anna Sugden of Strutt & Parker lettings in Newbury. Hampshire, estimates that the number of people renting because they can't find anywhere to buy has risen by 20 per cent in the past year. About 80 per cent of the people she speaks to at the moment

are stop-gappers.

"It's a real problem which has been building up over the past year." says Andrew Brown of Clegg Kennedy Drew in Charlbury. Oxfordshire. "People are desperate. They have the money to buy after selling up, but can't find anywhere and aren't sure what to do next. They find the experience very

Finding somewhere to rent can be almost as difficult, says Annabel Barnes of Hamptons Tempted by the prices offered, 250 of Hamptons landlords decided to sell up in the last quarter. So, with a shortage of

GUIDE TO EXCLUSIVE LETS

FOR THE price of a modest house in Pembrokeshire, you could rent one of London's top houses for a month, Lets of anything from £2,000 to a whopping £10,000 a week are becoming commonplace in prime London areas, according to Hamptons International.
Would-be tenants in Surrey

have budgets of between £3,000 to £5,000 per calendar month, although some will pay up to 66,000, says Angela Reid, of Knight Frank in Esher. Here is a selection of the

country's most exclusive lets



Holland Villas Road, W14, to rent at £6,000 per week

rental property in some areas. competition can be fierce.

Rents are rising in the Home Counties because of the pressures of demand. Our Esher office recently let a large family house for £8.000 a month after competition between two potential tenants pushed up the rent from £7.500."

London, cites a typical example of What you can expect to spend on rented accommodation will vary. those who choose to rent and budget for the expense. The firm but Ms Sugden warns potential has just agreed a deal on a fivetenants that they would be renting bedroom house, whose value has for up to a year while they buy, then increased by £100,000 since Octo-

■ Holland Villas Road, WI4, E6,800 per week (furnished). Seven/eight bedrooms, seven bathrooms, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, studio flat. On the street where Tom Cruise recently rented a house for £10,000 per week. Hamptons International, 0171-937 9371.

صكذا من الاصل

■ 62 Chester Terrace, SWI, £8,000 per week (unfurnished). Six bedrooms. Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171.

Holland Villas Road, W14, E6,000 per week (furnished). Six

E6,000 per week (furnished). Six bedrooms, swimming pool, staff flat. Egerton. 0171-584 7020/ Wetherell. 0171-493 6935/De Groot Collis, 0171-221 8090.

Upper Phillimore Gardens, WS, £4,500 per week (unfurnished). Eight-bedroom house. De Groot Collis, 0171-221 8090. OUT OF TOWN:

Pachesham Park, Oxshott, Surrey, £7,000 per month. Five bedrooms. Knight Frank, 01372 461196.

■ 18th-century manor house, Oxfordshire, E7,000 per month (furnished). Rent includes staff. Strutt & Parker, 01635 521707. St Ann's Court, St Ann's Hill, Chertsey. Surrey, £3,500 per month (furnished). Seven bed-room house. John D. Wood, 0181-946 9447.

The Old House, Stretting-ham, near Chichester, £3,250 per month (unfurnished). Four bedrooms, annexe, swimming pool. tennis court. Cluttons 01903 882213.

exchange and complete. Mr Brown

estimates that a good family house,

which many stop-gap renters want will cost from at least £1,700 a

month in his area, but many are

There is another side to the story.

Hampions in Fulham, west

happy to pay this.

ber. The vendors have nowhere to buy but decided to cash in on the dramatic rise in the value of their property and rent while they look somewhere else. They expect to spend £30,000 a year on rent. Landlords are beginning to re-

spond to the current situation by offering more adaptable rental periods than the usual six monthsone year, but those who are reluctant to let for short periods can pose a problem, says Ruth Gray of John D. Wood in Wimbledon. "As

the rental market is extremely buoyant, with a shortage of good properties, it becomes a landlord's market. So it is very difficult for a purchaser to secure a short-term tenancy when the property can be

Ed Cunningham with his wife Sarajane and son Lachlan outside the house they are renting

snapped up on a long-term lease. "We recently had a client looking to rent as a stop-gap for two or three months, but most of the properties they were interested in were only available for one year plus. Even-tually, they ended up renting privately through a friend."

A MOVING STORY

d Cunningham, an estate d agent with Douglas & Gordon, moved into a fourbedroom rented house in southwest London at the beginning of the month with his wife Sarajane and voung son Lachlan. In December they sold their Clapham home with a delayed completion date until May t.

"A local agent approached us last November and asked if we would be interested in selling. We said yes, and by the end of the month he had found a buyer. But we had to reject the offer because he wanted to move in by Christmas, which wouldn't have given us time to find anything else.

We put the house on the market through Douglas & Gordon last December and the second viewer put in an offer over the £400,000 asking price very quickly.

"Finding somewhere to buy was a nightmare as the market was very strong at the end of 1996, but this year it has accelerated to unheard of levels. We lost two houses to private offers. One couple said we couldn't look round until Monday but had a dinner party on the Friday night and sold it to a couple there. We also put in an offer on a house in Clapham but it went to sealed bids for silly money.

"By mid-March we started to panic and decided we weren't going to find anywhere by the beginning of May so we would look for somewhere to rent. But there's little available because everyone is in the same boat, and I was staggered by how high rents are. We saw five houses and eventually found one for £450 per week.

We wanted to take it for six months, but had to agree to eight, because otherwise we would be coming out around Christmas, the worst time for a landlord to relet. By the time we've paid rent and furniture storage with interest from the proceeds of our sale we will break even. But it's upsetting and Lachlan is very restless. Even for someone in the business, the whole process has been an education."

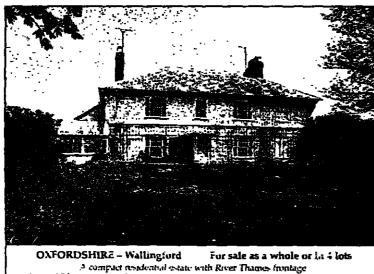
PROPERTY NEWS

THE FORMER home of Elton John at Belvederes Tower, Chelsea Harbour, west London is for sale for £1.1 million, Amanda Loose writes. The three-bedroom penthouse on the 15th floor overlooks the Thames. Contact Chestertons Residential on 0171-589 5211.

E PIMLICO agents Damntons report that several Labour MPs are trying to buy in the area, close to Westminster, but so far they have had no instructions from former Tory MPs wanting to sell.

E FLAT seven at Brandon House, Fulham, west London, will be familiar to fans of Channel 4's Melissa: Scenes from the drama were filmed there.

and Knight Frank is asking for offers close to £495,000 for the flat, which has four bedrooms. Contact Knight Frank on 0171-824 8171.



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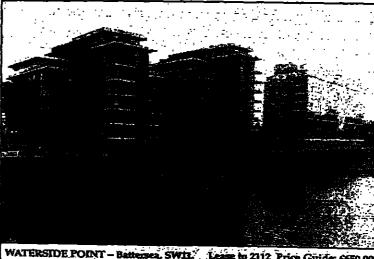
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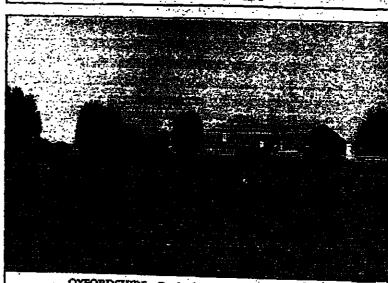
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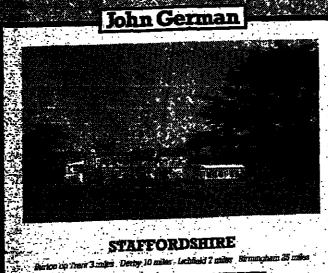
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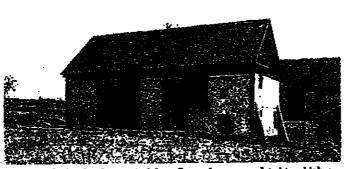
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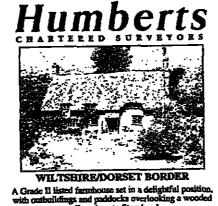
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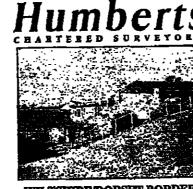


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TELEPHONEOGRAPIA

Welcome to the bolt-on homes

Say goodbye to the traditional house. The homes of the future will be cheap, high-tech and flexible. Christine Webb reports

The start of the new millennium is such a pressing landmark, or time-mark. that traditional housebuilding methods suddenly seem old hat, so the building industry is planning dramatic new methods to lift housing into the 21st century.

Basic British house building has hardly changed over 40 years and is regarded by some as being slow and easily. To spark a rethink, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation held a conference in April at which the project 2000 Homes was faunched. This is run by a consortium which aims to build at least 2,000 prototype homes in the UK by the year Bitto reving out new ideas.

The 2000 Homes team should carry some clout; it includes the Housing Corporation, Peabody Trust, Guinness Trust, Royal Institute of British Architects, Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, Berkeley Homes, National House-Building Council. Rowntree Foundation and some leading manufacturers.

Coincidentally, the house builder Wates has launched Project House 2000, to seek out key issues for housing, and the Berkeley Partnership has handed with some housing associations and local authorities to examine "smart" and "green" technology that has been

approved but never widely used. So far, such projects offer more questions than answers, but there are extraordinary ideas for them to explore. The 3000 Homes project wants its new houses to be flexible. sustainable, cost effective, innovative and high-tech. Most importantly, says its chairman. Professor David Gann, of Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit,

people's needs should come first.
"Most houses are designed for Mr Average and there's no such thing; we want to give the needs of people who live in houses top priority." he says. "A house is something you invest your life in. you should be able to take more with you when you move.

"More of the interior can become separate from the exterior, and that enables you to consider the interior differently and to do more to suit

BRAYINGTON ROAD W9 Freebold

your individual needs. For example, plug-in radiators could be taken when you move house." Another idea occupying 2000

Homes is what might be described as "building by numbers" from factory-made parts. The Japanese are already streets ahead in this, and it is fitting that the car firm Toyota is a leading light in manufacturing Japanese homes, too, because the car makes a good analogy. Project leaders liken most current British househuilding to a

1965 Ford Anglia. The Japanese buy houses like they buy cars. Land prices are high. but they scrap a house after 20 or 30 years, ordering a replacement in a shop where they can select from a computerised "catalogue" of new

'You can start off with a three roomed house and, when you can afford it, buy another room to stack on top'

homes. Their order is wired to the factory, where the frame and panels are made, windows and doors fitted, and the parts are sent. like flat-packs, on to the cleared site

These homes, which are steelframed, bear little resemblance to the mass-produced pre-fabs built in Britain after the Second World War, Advances in factory technology mean buyers can make so many choices that they virtually end up with a bespoke home. Rather than mass production leading to mass uniformity, the Japanese get mass customisation. The method is quick and production can be accurate to within a couple of millimetres, so that carpets can be pre-cut off-site to fit rooms, and even the electric wiring can be pre-

MARYLEBONE NW1 Lge 3 bed 2 red fint in period port'd mans block. Nr Rogents Pk 6279,000 Sanfords 01/1 723 9988

cut for quick installation. Ken Bartlett, a Rowntree Foundation consultant, says that one Japanese house builder manufactures 70,000 homes a year, of which 21,000 are

different types. Toyota already produces about 4,000 a year., George Wimpey, Britain's big-gest builder, produced 12,000 homes last year. Rates of production are significant, because of the 4.4 million new homes that we will need in the next 20 years, and because of worries about the life-

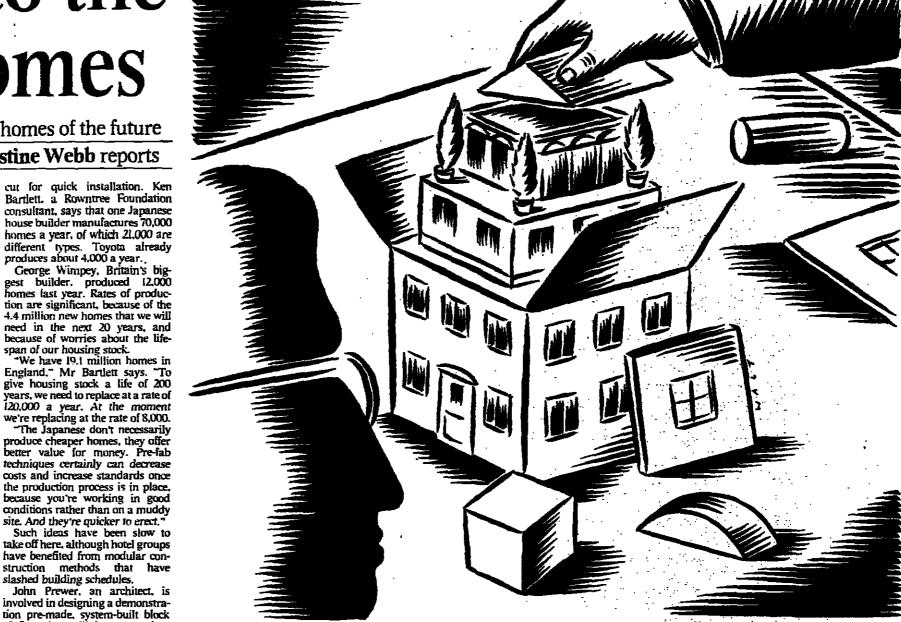
span of our housing stock.
"We have 19.1 million homes in England," Mr Bartlett says. "To give housing stock a life of 200 years, we need to replace at a rate of 120,000 a year. At the moment we're replacing at the rate of 8,000. The Japanese don't necessarily produce cheaper homes, they offer

better value for money. Pre-fab techniques certainly can decrease costs and increase standards once the production process is in place, because you're working in good conditions rather than on a muddy site. And they're quicker to erect."

Such ideas have been slow to take off here, although hotel groups have benefited from modular construction methods that have slashed building schedules.

tion pre-made, system-built block of flats that will be exported to Beijing, China. He is also using the same modules for a space-saving micro-flat project in which electrical appliances will be voice-activated and in which, at a press of a button, the sofa sinks into the floor while the bed unfolds out of a wall. To save space, the flat's large window, overlooking a balcony, will double as a television screen. When you use the television, the glass goes electrochromic and changes from a window to a screen." Mr Prewer says. "Your computer screen can also be shown on this, or a virtual view, say, of Bondi Beach - we can even have the sound of waves breaking on the beach piped through speakers."

Mr Prewer says it is possible to stack weather-proof modules on top of each other up to seven storeys



high, so that each floor is one major room: "You can start off with a three-roomed house and, when you can afford it, buy another room to stack on top. It's very affordable in land terms because it has a tiny footprint. One company has identified factory-produced housing as the single biggest industry waiting

Dickon Robinson, the director of development at the Peabody Trust in London, a leading sponsor of 2000 Homes, admires Dutch experiments with concrete technology, which makes for fast building. He has also visited an avant-garde development outside Copenhagen, Denmark. "One block of flats there is built from 2in-thick sheets of steel, about one metre wide buried deep in the earth, with glazing

panels set in between. It creates an interior that needs no heating because the steel acts as a conduit from the sub-soil, which is warm in

e are also investigating volumetric construction, in which as much as possible is built in the factory and erected on site. We may do a trial project north of the City in London to find out if we can produce acceptable homes and whether this method is cheaper we would hope to make savings of at least 15 per cent."

It sounds as if one day we will buy our homes bit by bit, rather like the children buy Lego: a clip-on balcony this month, a pop-on conservatory bubble the next.

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NOTTING BILL

On a different tack, Taywood-Homes has started building "flexihomes" at a development in Rothwell, Leeds: houses are designed so that ceilings are continuous and electrical fixtures or plumbing are left off some non load-bearing interior walls so that these can be removed easily. This

enables a couple to buy a three-

bedroom house but remove a wall-

later with a minimum of making-

"The outcome of system-building in

Japan is rather anarchic, says

Bernard Hunt, the chairman of

good to furn it into a two large-bedroom house, and reverse the process for resale at three-bedroom Such innovations are unusual in Britain, and our strict planninglaws might rule out some ideas.

want to stimulate people to build homes that are a shining example of what they should be for example, we should look at remote central-locking for houses like that used for cars.

2000 Homes. "By the year 2000 we

Energy will be a big issue. You can now get glazing that produces energy, and if we were to use photovoltaic technology in all British houses, that would generate 40 per cent of our electricity needs. "We're looking for a quantum leap in the experience of being in a

house. We have a static idea of housing, though 12 per cent of buyers choose a newly built home. We'll definitely get our 2,000 new homes up by 2000, the question is will they be brilliant examples, or more ordinary?"

Number Serior Superty period has 4 beds, 2 lgs receptions, lgs gdn.hermos.comberv, axeal cond. 61,100per, 0171, 460,7173

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Street markets are under threat. Can our craving to be wooed by stallholders, rather than be tricked with packaging and Muzak, save them?

marketing strategy, global market-ing and supermarketing, what hap-pened to real markets? A market is not a fanciful notion expressed across a desk, but the weekly coming together of traders under canvas awnings, braving all wea-thers to line the streets of market towns and shout incomprehensibly at passers-by. We mourn the passing of the village shop, post office, pub and school, but few

concerns are ever raised over markets. Perhaps because they don't deserve it. The traders are the last of the lovable rogues of the retail trade, giving every impression of being more than able to look after themselves. They are individuals and survivors. In rural towns, they meet once a week to form plucky gatherings brave enough to shoulder off any competition. We respect them for that but do not necessarily trust them.

Take your average street trader. Irrespective of his personal honesty, you harbour a traditional suspicion that he is somehow going to pull a fast one on you: surely, if he were a respectable man he d do the decent thing and have a shop, wouldn't he? But he turns up, once a week and is gone before teatime, only to reappear seven days later with a new and

These are the really super markets

better bargain about which he will harangue you. It is interesting that this has survived; after all, the market approach could not be further from the supermarket approach, where no one shouts at you, jokes with you, or makes you stand out in the rain while you get served. In fact, none of the supermarket staff seem to care whether you buy anything at all. So why is it that in an age when street markets, especially in small rural towns, should by rights have been consigned to the same compartment of history that contains the gas mantle and the lamplighter, weekly street markets

are still to be found? Possibly it is just our craving to be wood, personally, into buying rather than be tricked with packaging and lighting and Muzak; more likely it has to do with our wanting, at least once a week, to live life on the edge. Supermarkets, religiously obsessed with quality control, would blush with corporate shame if they sold you a cabbage with a caterpillar in it. They would take full-

page ads in the nat-ional press to apologise and promise inquiries; there would be a statement from the Consumer's Association and indignation across the broadcast media.

A market trader, on the other hand, would give you another (grudgingly) and you, as customer, would know you had exercised the most finely honed quality control in the world, only

achievable by looking the man who sold it to you and telling him it was rubbish. This is shopping in the raw. I do it every Wednesday among the dozen or so small stalls which form the lingering heart of what was once a thriving local event. It used to be allied to

a livestock market until that closed and

DOWN TO EARTH supermarket. But de-spite the competition, the tradition has clung on and old stagger into town on walking sticks to watch the cattle being sold still hobble into town every week to glare at the

cheap nylon bomber

It is some years since anyone came to this market to buy a fat pig, home again, home again, jiggety-jig, but associations with traditional market day remain unbroken. For example, an X-ray can still only be had on a Wednesday unless you want to drive 25 miles to the hospital. In the days of mass chest screening it was only worth doing if sufficient people could be persuaded to attend; why would

the site was devel-oped as a boring coming into a town, if there wasn't coming into a town, if there wasn't anything to buy or sell? The habit survives, and so in this age of the medical miracle, anyone hereabouts twisting their ankle on a Thursday has to wait a week to discover the damage or take the long haul to town.

> The arrival of the market stalls noticeably lifts the spirit of the town. It buzzes, whereas most of the week it snoozes. The street which six days a week smells only of exhaust, finds itself engulfed in a mixture of salty, tangy, smells from the stall that brings fish fresh from the sea. Next to it is the cheese stall, so the scent of fresh herring meets the gorgonzola. If the wind is in the north, this potent breeze is fortified by sprout and onion from the vegetable stall before descending on the hapless man at the very end, who sells knickers in sizes

> beyond imagination. With already two supermarkets in the town, there is an advancing plan to build

an ever bigger and better one. One wonders how many enemies the plucky street traders can fight off at one time. At least the existing shops are in the middle of town, and so the battle is fought in the same ring. The proposed development is to be out of town.

It will not attract the old men who stand on the street corners on Wednesdays as if they still had cattle to sell, but it is difficult to see the younger, motoring public making the double effort to pay a few pence less for a cucumber. Our market, like many others throughout the

country, may die.

Of course, if the supermarkets were as public-spirited as they would have us believe, they would recognise the value of the market shopping tradition and once a week cordon off part of the vast parking lot with which they surround themselves for the tented stalls and the chip van. Or is it all too grubby, too much like real life for the manicured minds of the super-

marketeers to contemplate? Are they perhaps frightened that given a sporting choice, shoppers might find the man with his box of cut-price,

kergers de veletine on country matters, from wildlife to village life, people to politics. Write to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN

New Labour, new rambling routes?

pictured on the right develops much like a Beethoven symphony: slow, reflective first movement at a car park in a dark wood: a hectic scherzo across a busy road; a gentle andante through a meadow and a short transition over a stile. Then, as you emerge out of some trees.

a crescendo of brass to a jubilant finale. Within a few strides, the view opens up from 50 yards to about 50 miles. The Chilterns scarp plunges away to the chequerboard Oxfordshire plain. In the middle distance, the Thames. In the misty beyond, the Cotswolds, arcing

round to the Uffington White Horse on the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire. But if you wanted to pause to celebrate one of the finest views in southern England, you would have to do so without touching anything you see around you. Legally, the only place you may stop is here on the footpath. To stray an inch off the defined route is,

technically, trespass.
On our immediate left and On our immediate left and to you to enjoy right are the Shirburn and them." Ms Ash-Pyrton hills. These sweeps of open downland above Wat-, frustrating not to among the most fiercely disputed forbidden tracts of lands in Britain. The ninth Earl of Macclesfield, whose Beechwood estate this is, has resisted all appeals to open them to

the public. He may not be able to resist for much longer. We don't know how many ministers in the new Government have enjoyed this view, but Kate Ashbrook, the chairman of the 120,000-strong Rambiers' Association, is confident that their accumulated commitments to legislate will soon give the public the freedom to

roam these hills. John Smith, the last Labour leader, was a keen rambler. His aspiration to give the public the right to leave footpaths and wander off into open countryside is shared by his former walking companion. Chris Smith, the new Heritage Secretary. The Minister for the Environment, Michael Meacher, said in a

Gareth Huw Davies on whether

walkers in the country can look

forward to more rights to roam

ment passed the National

Parks and Access to the Coun-

upland. However, that Act fell

it applied to the wider country-

side. Local authorities were

left to survey open land and

decide where to make access

carried out the voluntary sur-

family seat the

nearby Shirburn Castle, puts his

case with fervour.

to be fair to the

environment, you

keep the bloody

says.
"We are almost town

two species, town

and country. Town

people, when they

come out here.

can't keep their mouths shut.

The human voice drives wild-

life away, whereas the coun-

tryman sees all sorts of things

when he is by himself and

quiet. And the ramblers say

they clear up behind them,

well they don't. We find rub-

bish on and off the footpath."

that the right to roam would

interfere with publicly funded

tree planting and urgent estate management — such as cull-ing deer and controlling pests

- and would conflict directly

with other legislation designed

to protect the countryside; for

example, the red kites, which

nest on the estate, are safe-

guarded under the 1981 Wild-life and Countryside Act.

"They are here because the

place is peaceful," the earl

Lord Macclesfield argues

"If you are going

speech in January 1991: 'It is fundamental that there should be a right of access to ... open countryside." And, in its gen-eral election manifesto, Labour promised "greater freedom for people to explore our open countryside". The subject wasn't mentioned in last week's Queen's speech, but the Ramblers' Association hopes

that a promised consultation paper on access can be published by the autumn. Today there was a spectacular eavesdropper to our conversation as we walked down the path. A red kite drifted overhead, eyes primed for a dead lamb or rabbit. The kite. blasted to extinction in Eng-

land by Victorian guns, was recently reintro-duced from its last refuge in Wales 'An access and is thriving. Those hills call Bill could

face robust opposition ground and see in the around the corner. It's so restricting to Lords' have to walk on a particular strip of

land and not to be able to wander harmlessly and peacefully." Ms Ashbrook has for years

been an implacable campaigner for the right of walkers in England and Wales (the law is different in Scotland) to roam freely on open, privately owned land. She sees restricted access as the main constraint on the public's enjoyment of the countryside.

Walkers could benefit from a new access law in "hundreds" of spectacular places which until now have been closed to them, she says. These include Yorkshire moorland with Bronte associations, the Berwyns (high moorland) in North Wales, parts of the Peak District and the Forest of Rowland in Lancashire. In 1949, a Labour-Governsays. "They don't mind people walking down footpaths because that is routine. If you give free access, people will see hem nesting and wander over

to see what is going on. And that will effect breeding." Ms Ashbrook rejects this. He has chosen the wrong tryside Act, opening up parts of England and Wales, mainly bird there. The kite doesn't mind people. Besides, we will accept the standard prohibishort of walkers' hopes where tions that apply in any open space — no fires, music, political meetings and so on. Signs could be put up at lambing time asking people to keep off. There is plenty of peaceful agreements. But few councils

wandering we can do without

interfering with anything."

Lord Macclesfield, who sits veys. Only one access agreement, outside national parks, is thought to have been made. on the crossbenches, believes The Ramblers' Association an access Bill could face some claims that the 1949 Act was robust opposition in the Lords. specifically designed to give He argues that Labour is weak access to areas such as the on countryside matters in the Lords, citing a debate in December 1995 which he at-Shirburn and Pyrton hills. Its confrontation with Lord Macclesfield is long running and tended with 30 backbenchers bitter. The earl,

 Conservative, Liberal Democrats and crossbenchers. The Labour Party couldn't find a single backbench peer who had the combination of time and knowledge to speak on the countryside," he says. They can't drag out their

ut the Country Landowners' Association. which opposes an access law while preferring voluntary agreements between ramblers and landowners, says Labour's manifesto commitment to "greater freedom to explore the countryside" did not constitute a promise to legislate over countryside access

However, it is hard to see how a Government which has already said it will ban hand guns and tobacco advertising will hold back on such a potentially popular issue.

Ms Ashbrook, as if anticipating the result for which she has fought so long, strayed off the path to deliver a final word from the bottom of Shirburn Hill: "Now, at last, there's a chance of getting what ramblers thought they were being given 50 years ago. It could be in memory of John Smith. That would be wonderful."



Kate Ashbrook, the Ramblers' chairman, with Gareth Huw Davies: the country beyond is largely off-limits to walkers

ON THE SPOT: EDGE HILL, WARWICKSHIRE Rural recommendations

The place: The octagonal Radway Tower on the ridge of Edge Hill. Built by Sanderson Miller (1750), based on Guy's Tower of Warwick Castle. The view: Below the beech-clad slopes is the

wide Feldon plain of the Vale of the Red Horse. The forbidden acres of the largest ammunition dump in Europe hide the site of the bloody opening battle of the Civil War on October 23, 1642. The appeal: The puffing climb up one of the

steep paths from Radway brings you a reward - the folly tower, which is incorporated in the Castle Inn. Enjoy the view from the garden then continue walking the paths fincluding the Centenary Way) through the billowing, hanging woods. Historical interest: Here Charles I raised his

standard before the fateful descent into the valley. He would have passed Radway Grange, home at the time of the Washington family. A later visitor was Henry Fielding, who came to the area to write The History of Tom Jones. The nearby church lists Earl Haig among its village heroes. Best time to visit: About this time of the year.

when the beech trees revert to their delicate OS reference: 373474 (Landranger 151).

Also nearby: Upton House (National Trust), with magnificent paintings collected by Lord Bearsted. Test-flying of first practical jet aircraft (Whittle E28/39) was at the longredundant RAF Shenington.

RICHARD SHUREY

The buzz is, bee-eaters are back

FEATHER REPORT

The defence consists of lay-

ing their eggs at intervals of a

IN MAY, all sorts of birds appear in Britain that are unlikely to be found here at any other time of the year. They are spring migrants to other parts of Europe that have either strayed too far west, or were supposed to stop in the south and overshot the mark to end up on our shores.

This week, quite a few bee-

eaters were spotted in southern England. These were overshooters. Most bee-eaters nest around the Mediterranean, though their range has been stretching northward in the past 25 years and they are now found breeding regularly out-I have a vivid memory of

bee-eaters. It was some years ago when I was in what was then called the Canal Zone of Egypt. One April morning I was out on the shore of the Great Bitter Lake when suddenly the sky was filled with birds. They were swooping and gliding all round me, the sun gleaming on their brilliant blue wings, the air full of their brisk, liquid calls. Many of them swept quite

close past me, and I could see the rest of their dazzling plumage - their orange underwings and blue breasts. chestnut backs, yellow throats. There must have been 20 or 30 of them, and they were catching flying insects, now high in the air, now close to the sand. The birds' flight was extraor-

the sky seemed strangely empty after they had gone. It had been almost like a vision on that desert shore. However, I did see them once or twice more that spring, always ap-pearing unexpectedly and disappearing as abruptly. They were on their way north up the Suez Canal to somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean. It was not bees they were catching that morning, but bees are their favourite food,

dinarily graceful, with long

glides on stiff wings and

They did not stay long, and

sudden, deft turns.

and in some parts of Europe they can be a plague to beekeepers if they find a hive. They are skilful at dealing with bees. They take them back to a perch - a fence or a telephone wire - and kill them by beating them against it a few times. Then they rub the corpse firmly against the perch to squeeze all the poison

THE BEE-EATERS breed in colonies, burrowing deep into sandbanks and quarries, and laying their eggs in a kind of dungeon at the end of the hole. They are one of those species that have a rather cruelseeming defence against shortage of food when they are feeding their young - always

a hazard for birds that depend on flying insects, since their prey can completely disappear in wet weather.

day or two, but starting to incubate from the first egg. Most birds wait until their last egg has been laid before they begin incubating, so all the eggs hatch together. With beeeaters, and other birds such as swifts, which sit from the first egg, the eggs hatch out at intervals, with the result that there are eventually both large and small chicks to be found in the nest. In good weather,

Bee eaters hunting insects

drifting, perhaps rather lost, around Britain in the past week or two are quite so startling as the bee-eaters. However, one species has something in common with them: the honey buzzard which, like them, feeds on insects with stings, though in the case of this large raptor the preference is for wasos. Honey buzzards used to be a

not kind

fairly common species in our woods - Gilbert White used to see them around Selborne but now they are rare birds, mostly wandering over to us from the continent.

all of them get amply fed, and

the parents manage to bring up five or six healthy young.

However, if food is in short

supply, the large, burly chicks

get it all, and their small

brothers and sisters get none

and die. It may sound ruth-

less, but it means that the

parents rear three healthy

young rather than six ill-

nourished ones, all of whom

would probably die in the end.

The strategies of evolution are

NONE of the other uncom-

mon birds that have been

Another bird that used to be common and is now rare, but has been reported in a number of places in the past few days, is the red-backed shrike. Look out for a bird with a bright chestnut back, and a black line through its eye, on the top of a gorse bush. You may see it flying down to the ground to trap a beetle, or even find a "larder" of beetles that it has stuck on some thorns A very pretty bird that I

used to see in Egypt and that has been turning up on the east side of England this week is the bluethroat. It really does have a bright blue throat, with either a red or a white spot in the middle of it. It flits about much like a robin and is most likely to be seen among bushes in waterlogged fields or marshes. Red-throated pipits, which

nest in northern Scandinavia, have also been seen on the east coast: they are like a meadow pipit, with a ruddy throat and None of them can compare

in beauty with the bee-eaters. In fact, I sometimes dream at night of that wonderful cloud of blue birds. They are ideal candidates for dreams,

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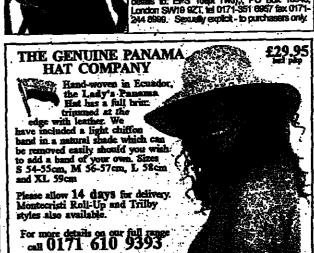
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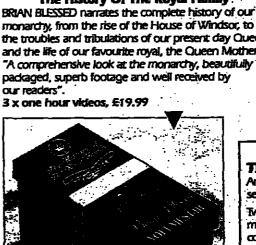
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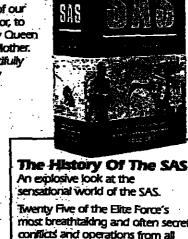


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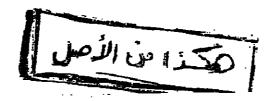


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side gap (7) 43 Impvith heart of rogue disturbed Men (7) 44 Enj. baking too much and become

too (7) say, one bloke with 45 Favered. brai: (11)

46 Onceceiving such praise may be 49 Ultroonservative opponents of chare - very blue (4-1)

53 Selig from the public domain, one addı tax in valuing (11) Disdute young socialite taking

Thenure motor - new line (8)

goldbout hefore he died (9) 56 Negiations on arms reduction get und way (5)

58 Copheld in wire protector (5) 59 Noto be appeased, bites a nail uncirollably (10) 61 Oxis has not done much to dam-

ageneart (4.5) 64 Maon horse is saintly archbishop

65 Electral discharge? I feel storm's brevng (2.5.4)

1.76

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1117

AND PARTY

66 Paier ship's officer used to secure oneraft (7) 67 Mar the post look attractive and

suprited a particular candidate unerivocally? (6.4.7.2.3.4) 68 Forach awkward person one must

havleg instruments (10) 69 On will never forget the plane breing up (5) 70 Heic Paul always coming into

Setture lessons? (6)

1 One puts people in touch with another bank after getting hung up (10.6)

2 Like a pig gobbling up rodent (9) 3 Acknowledging it's hard being un-

5 Female not quiet in general estimation? That brings denial (10) 6 One may be tough, but liable to

crumble (6)
Condescending sort of government that may be seen in parliaments (11) 8 Bit of machinery lad manoeuvred into large plant (7)

 Nudge one girl having sex appeal — yen for being dissolute (II) Cricketing opponent is so ascendant over England's opener (5)

Recycled money, including grant --12 Sail a month before getting angle of mast right (9)

13 Tempting things sent out to ensuare one Bond (11) 14 Pronounce order to leave old wom-an's inadequate accommodation (4)

Bishop, flexible and light-hearted (6) Twofold advice to batsman in sort of accident (3-3-3) 23 I catch composer inside, getting 25 Murderer's name associated with

crime novels (8) Mammal traps mother in nasty old 29 Knight without a place by the fire is mebody having limited jurisdic-

somebo 32 Class actors as received by audience 35 Lounge is entered by dad offering

36 Insect hated flying — ob-another insect let loose (5-5, 6) 38 Ogre cries out for food (9) 39 Clouded, second-rate ale sadly get-

40 Having swelling on neck or gout is terrible (8) ignment from brothers we

look up to? (4.5) A male always gets a title in the Middle East (5)

47 Interior designer puts small piece of light hue around object (II) 48 Ado if casino harassed punters (II) O, hang the sir naughtily responsible for this crime! (4,7)

50 Roughly assembles sound bit of 52 Athletic team that's introduced art of

the French dance (10) 53 Remuneration to keep staff - a 54 A job left one cold - nothing in it in

the Christian tradition (9) 57 Asteroid coming in quickly? NASA's technology offers the answer (9) 60 A jolly awkward situation - mem-

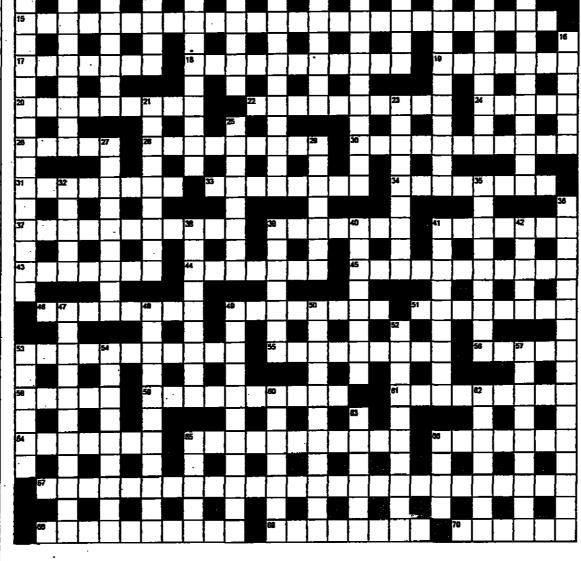
ber may go through it (7)

62 Immoderate section of text remembered (7) 63 Bomber held up as contemptible

fellow in address (6) 65 Transgression very good wasn't the message here! (5) 66 Child's strength given in report (4) TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, June 9, 1997. Entries should be sent to: Spring Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street,

London El 9XN. The names of the winners and the solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, June 14



NAME.

Spring Times Two Holiday Crossword

The answers will be published on Monday

ACROSS

I Ready-ried (bow-rie) (4-2)

4 Praise: high honour (8) 9 Nourishment (10)

15 No situation is all bad

(5,5,3,1,6,6)

18 Senior officers' assistants (5-

19 Messenger; tourist guide (7) 20 Rock fall (9)

22 Indian lingua franca (10)

24 Youngster (5)

26 Additional (5)

28 Exterior-wall plaster (9) 30 Revival (esp. of culture) (11)

31 Devil worshipper (8)

33 Agreed to: put up with (8)

34 Motionless (8)

37 Take places for race! (2.4.5)

39 State to N of Wyoming (7)

41 Ambiguous (oracle, reply)

43 Interminable (7) 44 Of plants (7)

45 Moth larva (11) 46 Hard cheese (S)

49 Streetlight pillar (4-4)

51 TE-: DH-(8)

53 Wind-blown fluff (11) 55 Rule badly (9)

56 Initialise; assemble (3.2)

58 Similar (5)

59 Uninspired; walker (10) 61 Seamless whole (9)

64 Subdue, discipline (7)

65 Prominent: publicised (4-7)

66 Seize possession of (7)

67 Hamlet courtiers: they're dead (Stoppard) (11,3,12)

68 Stationery with printed ad-

dress (10)

69 Bounty (8) 70 Of the mind (6)

There are no prizes for this crossword.

DOWN

1 Royal Hospital redcoat (7.9) 2 Unstylish (9)

3 Orig. Games site: London

hall (7) 5 Plucky (10)

6 Leather (from cartle) (b)

7 Murder (prominent person)

8 London Cockney area (4.3) 9 Showing aplomb (4-7)

10 Take a nap (5) 11 Selection (of best) from vari-

ous sources (II)

12 Makes public (9)

13 Dependent (III 14 Indication (4)

16 Cot: hold tenderly (6)

21 It comes but once a year (9) 23 Recipient of yearly fixed

amount 19 25 Stocky: densely planted (8)

27 Until sick of it (2.7)

29 Colossal (7) 32 Trifled (5)

35 Three-ball game (9)

36 Those Frenchies sought him everywhere (Orcay) (7.9) 38 Notis, outlaw hero (5.4)

39 Smallest value (7) 40 Forebear (3)

41 Musketeer hero (Dumas)

42 Fire-extinguishing compound (5)

47 One bought without checking (1,3,2,1,4)

48 Overnight carriage (8.3) 49 Unable to focus close (4-7)

50 Money for mailing (6.5)

52 Indian Ocean islands, ex-British (10)

53 Roof reeds (6)

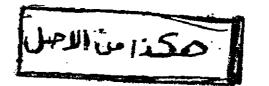
54 Therapy (9)

57 Obstreperous (9) 60 A painter: an archangel (7)

62 Deadlock (7) 65 Shape; calculate (6)

65 Pull hard: throw (5)

66 Staff of ship (4)



A collection with strings attached

he puppet collector turned a corner and saw, hanging on a stall, what he had wanted for 12 years. It was Sara Swede, the rare other half of the more common Mr Turnip.

"She was just five feet away from me, but it felt as if it took me ten minutes to reach her. All sorts of thoughts flashed through my mind. What if it was just a Mr Turnip in a dress?" Laugh, if you will, at the of anything will understand how David Showler's heart thumped as he checked out Sara Swede's clothes, head and paintwork and found he had the genuine

vegetable. The puppers that pull Mr Showler's strings are Pelham puppets, perhaps the most famous puppet name in Britain, which children everywhere in the 1950s used in the plays they put on for grandma and auntie. They star in the purpet section of the latest edition of Miller's Collectables Price Guide, the bible for collectors. Millers has never before given

such a display to puppets.

Children's toys today zap and bleep and are created by people with imagination for kids without any - they have lost it all to videos and the telly. Pelham puppets, no longer made, sit in collectors' boxes and hang on their walls, testament to the old cliché that "we made our

own entertainment in those days". What would most children today do if they were given the Dutch boy and girl, or MacBoozle, the drunken Scotsman who clutches a bottle?

"They'd think 'how quaint' and put it back in the box. Then they'd turn the TV on. Puppets aren't fast enough for today's children," says Sue Valentine, a housewife who runs a club and writes a newsletter for Pelham puppet collectors.

Pelham Puppets was started in 1947 by Bob Pelham, known as Pelpop to the readers of his Pelpup Club magazine. The club once had 70.000 members.

In their heyday the puppets were all wood and were hand-painted in Mr Pelham's factory in Marlbor-ough, Wiltshire, by about 100 workers. Later the purity of the puppets was corrupted by plastic

The Pelham factory is no more, but the

puppet market is very much alive, reports Jill Parkin

the work was contracted out to Eastern Europe. Things were never really the same after the old man died in 1980. The company passed through different hands and finally went into voluntary liquidation in April last year.

Bob Pelham knew that you could put a puppet in the hands of a shy child and see his confidence grow. Behind the curtain he would socialise and be interactive," Mrs Valentine says.

The puppets were mainly about 12 inches high — though Mr Showler boasts at least one 20-incher — with pine bodies and dowel limbs. They were strung from each knee, each hand, the middle of the back and each side of the head. Tangled strings were a hazard, so after a few years the strings were colour coded.

r's a collection you can never complete," Mrs Valentine says. There are one offs. some made for professional puppeteers. So if someone says they have a Pelham wizard with an open mouth, or a Bill and Ben, even though I'm surprised, it could well

"And because the puppets were hand-painted, there are all sorts of differences. You might buy a gypsy with blue eyes, thinking you can cross gypsy off your collection list, and then see one in a market with

The Pelham gypsy, with sultry look and big hoop earrings, was never out of production. Pelham puppers were not politically correct. There were golliwogs and minstrels with moving mouths, and a German soldier called Fritzi, not to mention MacBoozle.

Mr Showler is, he says, the Pelham expert. He wrote the entry

his own. "I'm a normal man, with children, not some sad chap in a raincoat," he says.

He is a professional puppeteer and is on hand at Harlequin House, a specialist shop in Kensington, for a few days a week to deal with Pelham queries. The phone starts ringing almost as soon as he walks through the door.

"People want the puppets they couldn't afford when they were children. Or they want to replace what they had and later gave away. Or they want the one their friend down the road had," he says. "I had them as a child in the days when Mulfin the Mule was 16s 11d. Pelhams were always expensive."

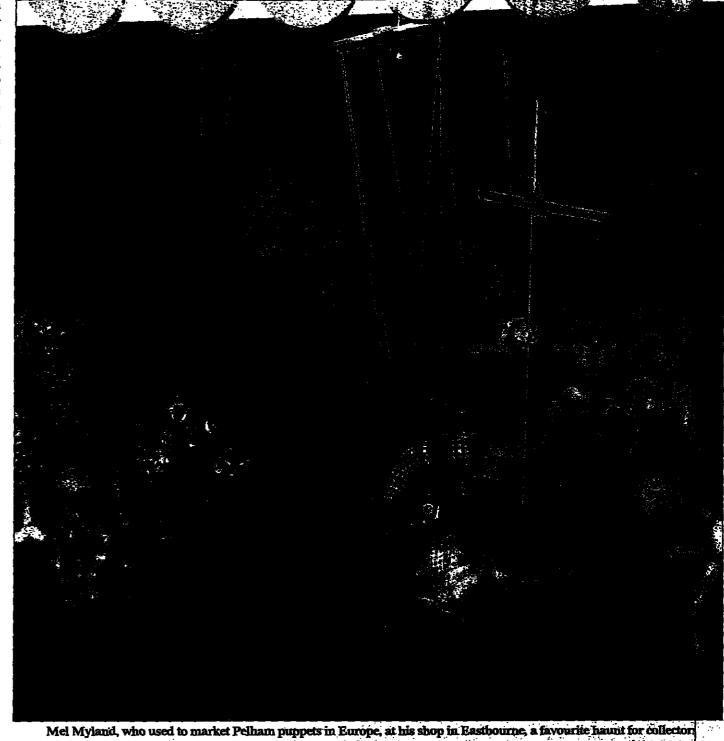
Lovers of Pelham puppets buy and swap to get the collection they want. They trade policemen ("ten a penny") for clowns, dogs, Mitzi and Fritzi. A favourite haunt is the museum and shop in Eastbourne run by puppennaker Mel Myland, who used to market Pelhams in

Some lines did not work well and were abandoned early, which adds value. It was rumoured that the root vegetables were weak in the head, especially the females.

Pelham took on the new televisual world and produced Pinky and Perky and Andy Pandy in the 1960s, as well as Disney characters such as Pluto and Donald Duck. Even Thunderbirds puppets were produced to coincide with the recent revival, long after the com-But it is the earlier puppers that

inspire the Pelham lovers. How can you tell, apart from the name on the puppet's control, a Pelham from another outpoet? "If it attracts you. it's a Pelham," Mr Showler says, "If it doesn't, it's not." Mrs Valentine and her members fear that, with the entry in Miller's, prices will rise, dealers will buy up the supply, and puppets will be collected as investments by people with no feeling for them. At the moment you can still pick them up for about ES at a junk stall if you are lucky. Mr Showler paid £30 for his Sara Swede, But that was true love.

● Harlequin House, 3 Kensington ● The Puppet Workshop, 38 Grove Road, Eastbourne



Beware the pirates who sell exotic birds

parrot isn't just for Christmas, or even for life — it could be for your children's lives, too. "The oldest recorded one is 120," says Barrett Watson, a leading

Of course all pets call for commitment, but a parrot demands more than most. Of the 300 or so species of parrot, only about 20 are not bred in captivity. Responsible breeding ensures the survival of the rest, as natural habitats are lost through deforestation, or species are threatened by ruthless and irresponsible capture.

One species, the spix macaw, has been reduced to only one bird left in the wild. However, there are 48 in captivity and the Spix Macaw Survival Fund has just released a captive-bred female in Brazil in the hope that she will pair with the last wild survivor

But all is not lost if this fails, as Mr Watson's partner, David Tyler, points out: "The wild spix has paired with another species of macaw, so if they mate it might be possible to go into the nest and swan their eggs for fertile ones from captive spix macaws.

Mr Watson and Mr Tyler have about 100 of the brilliantly coloured, intelligent and often affectionate birds at their Suffolk home. Grumplet, a blue and gold macaw, is a favourite. She is named after

With some species of parrot under threat of extinction in the wild, buying a captive-bred bird from a reputable dealer is vital – and the rewards are great

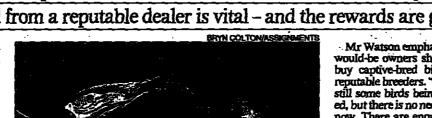
her father, Grumpy, but is behaved. She talks, is house trained and understands a wide variety of commands. They're so beautiful and intelligent - more intelligent than dogs," Mr Watson says. Grumplet proves his point.

When he waves to her, she waves" her wings and says But be prepared to pay a lot of money for a bird - prices for a youngster from a reputable breeder range from £250 to £3,000. The cost reflects the time and skill that captive breeding takes. Birds choose

their own partners and become devoted to each other, usually for life - though Mr Watson has one macaw who is the product of a "divorce and remarriage". The birds can lay between one and three clutches a year and are allowed to rear some, with others put into incubation.

Hatchlings go into the warm environment of a brood- a warm box with a fan. This is where the work really starts. They have to be fed every three hours on baby food; Mr Watson recommends chicken casserole with vegeta-

"They don't feed themselves



Barrett Watson with one of 100 parrots he breeds in Sulfolk

until they are about eight to 12 weeks old, and it could take four months to wean them," he says. "We put them in a cage with brightly coloured food like oranges and apples and, once they start to pick at these. they eventually decide that they don't want to be fed any

When Mr Watson has weaned the young, they are ready for sale, but prospective owners can expect a polite grilling. Mr Watson and Mr Vier guarantee that they will always take back any bird they sell if the owner cannot keep it. The birds need plenty of stimulation - company, dif-ferent food, things to play with." Mr Watson says.

"You can feed a parrot anything that's good for you --fruit, vegetables, chicken, pasta, seeds, pulses and nuts. Most of the commercial food is 50 per cent husks. They like any child's toy that is brightly coloured and not breakable. They like to ring bells and chew bits of coloured wood. Ours love moving the beads on an abacus."

HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS

buy captive-bred birds from utable breeders. There are: still some birds being imported, but there is no need for that now. There are enough being bred to satisfy the demand for pets for all the main species. It is cruel to import them and wild birds never make good pets; they're unhappy and the owners are unhappy.

ohn Catchpole, the editor of the magazine Just Parrots, agrees. "The biggest problem with the parrot business is that they are becoming more popular and there is a lot of irresponsibility. A lot of breeders hide behind pet shops. There are good per shops, of course, but I'd always recommend someone to go to a reputable breeder."

He knows of cases where unsuspecting buyers have bought parrots which have died soon afterwards. As identification is difficult unless the birds are microchipped — a security measure many owners now opt for - the purchaser is left with only a till receipt and nothing to prove that it relates to a particular bird. You can keep a parrot on its own provided you let it out at

pires telephone committeden for £5 fee. Call 0115 928 1670

ALL OVER

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lots of attention. Mr Watson advises that all birds should be taught to go in a cage so that you can keep them out of harm's way when necessary, all the time and ignore it is mental torture.

The birds get on well with other animals but a cat "doesn't stand a chance" against a parrot, he says.

Health problems are rare if you buy from a reputable source, whereas imported birds might well be diseased Parrots do not need vaccinations and, if kept correctly, will keep their beaks and claws in trim through chewing, though occasional daw trimming may be necessary for the owner's own comfort.

So how intelligent are parrots? Mr Catchpole says an American researcher working with African greys claims they will pick out sharp-cornered or round objects on command, but adds: They love interac-tion with people, but you can't have a conversation with one."

CAROLYN HENDERSON

 Barrett Watson (01284 830732) will help and advise would-be owners or owners with problems

• Just Parrots offers a free buyers' checklist, available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Just Parrots, Key Publications, 53 High Street, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3RE (01903 816600).

MISCELLANEOUS

HAPPY PETS HOUR

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CATS

We have had two tor-toises for the past ten years. They live together and each does his (or her) own ways on. The noise from

heard 50 yards away. We let them out a couple of weeks ago when it was so hot and he started doing it again. Why? I think you had two A females and your aunit's

tortoise is a male. Sex is the most likely explanation. Tor-toises are cold-blooded animais speaking biologically. but the males are hot-blooded emotionally when the sun is

shiring. Normal tortes foreing into the side of the male and other demonstratins of her legs and tail. All owhich promotes fertility. I live a

You can confirm theex of your tortoises by looking at their tails. The male is always longer than the feale's A less reliable indicators the shape of the underneath the shell (the plastron). It is concave in males, and en but not always - corex in

JAMES ALLOCK

 Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, Lond El 9XN. Advice is offered withit

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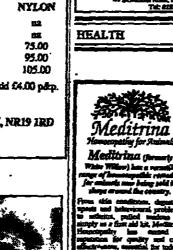
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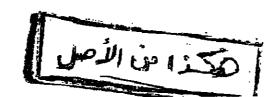
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The exercise class was attended by super-svelte and super-neurotic actresses and models, and I was the only fatty in the back row

f it wasn't for women like me, an awful lot of people would be consid-erably less well-off. Every new fitness. kick and dicting fad that comes along fills me with new hope and a touching belief that maybe this time I'll be lucky

... no more heartburn for me.
I did display fairly worrying signs of being susceptible to this racket before the children came along. In my twenties, there was the odd aerobics class and something called the F-Plan diet which involved consuming heroic quantities of brain in order to propel those extra pounds down the loo. And if I rummage even further back into my slimming archives, there was an ill-advised egg and wine diet at university and the citrusfruit-fast at school which enabled me to buy a pair of size 10 - burrah! - split-

knee magenta and black loons.
But it was only with the arrival of our first son that I became a health Moonie: a fully paid-up, fully brainwashed mem-ber of various slimming sects. Further evidence, I would say, that your brain calls get flushed out with your placenta when you give birth. I still remember, all too vividly, the woman who ran one of Living off the fats of the land (Spurred by the lear that I was heading for Evans-Outsize-LIFE AND SOUL

the Sydney chapters of Weight Watchers: an incredible Dame Edna figure whose tip of the week was an alternative salad dressing which involved combining a teaspoon of garlic powder (never use anything fresh when dried will do), several teaspoons of malt vinegar, several more of cod liver oil and a dash of

Bovril for added "taste". In my early-thirties, battling with my post-maternal bulge back in London, I had a wretched time with a mother-anddaughter team of body transformers in South Kensington. This class was attended by super-svelte, super-neurotic ac-tresses and models, and I was the only fatty in the back row. The bar work in front of a full-length mirror which covered every wall to prevent you estaping from your sweaty reflection was had excernly but the wasty reflection was bad enough, but the pep talks were quite horrible. We would sit cross-legged and panting on the floor, to be rewarded for our physical exertions with a mental

us about the dire consequences which would await us if we did not abjure caffeine, tannin and fat we're suddenly all human - because they did. (If any

proof were needed that I am not First Lady material, it is that Cherie Blair has been whittled into shape by the Gonerillike daughter of this ghastly regime.)

And now that mid-life crisis is all the rage as we baby-boomers — the biggest, richest and, it must be said, most self-

obsessed generation there has ever been

- have hit 40, there is no stopping me.

which, when you think about it, is a contradiction in terms - with the Clapham branch of Weight Watch-whileyou-put-it-all-back-on-Ers, I turned to the yucky, loony and now defunct American Mutri-system (more pep talks and a hulking weekly supply of frozen granu-

dom, I managed to

shift a stone or two

before I became

pregnant for the sec-ond time.) But in the

six vears since our

second son was born,

I have submitted my-

self to every cranky

regime available

with little -- or, rath-

er, too much - to

show for it. After the

lated food, packed with every additive imaginable). I still keep a carton of "Country Noodles" boasting "imitation bacon bits, onions, peas and peppers" on my bookcase to remind me of my foolish ways. This was my favourite dish and contained no fewer than 11 E-numbers.

I tried Oprah Winfrey's low-fat cookbook, but if life is too short to stuff a mushroom, there are certainly not enough hours in the day to potatoes into filigree threads which are then tossed in egg whites with a smidgen of paprika and baked. This "on no account call it a ..." diet, coincided with my year with a personal trainer. When I point out to poor Simon, whom I still see, that I am not exactly his best advertise-ment, he is reduced to saying, "Well, just think what you'd be like if I hadn't come along."

Last year's flirtation was with colonic irrigation which my less kind friends have said must have been a weight off

my mind. Actually, Leor Cohen's clinic worked wonders for me but, again, they were short-lived. It did not help that while he was fiddling around with tubes down below, I was gazing at a cartoon depicting a plump matronly woman. togged out in a track suit, jogging. This made me feel that I was getting it — so to speak - at both ends.

While I work out how to become a polar explorer - can you think of a better incentive to lose weight and get fit than the very real threat that you might be endangering your life if you don't? I have agreed to go to Champney's health farm with my mother for a rather bizarre variation on R&R. This is a prelude to my latest stab at the body beautiful or considering the time of my life — the body young. I have agreed to let Judith Wills - who has a book to promote take ten years off my life in just ten weeks. (This miracle she intends to achieve through more personal training, diet plan, psychology and restyling.) If she is successful, you will doubtless hear a lot more about it. If not - well, let's put it this way - I will be the last person to be



Son, I'm not your father

living at home in London, his father died. "He was a sales rep. He went to work one morning and at half-past eight there was a policeman at the door saying he had been killed in a road accident." Alan says. "He had a heart attack and

died in the car." It was a shock, but more so for Alan than anyone else in the family. For the death also unleashed a secret that had been kept for 23 years. His parents had agreed that if one of them died. Alan should be told the truth and so the next day his mother sat across from him at the breakfast table and

tried to do just that. She said she had something very important to tell me and she was obviously struggling to say it." Alan says.
"She said she had to tell me that my father was not really my father. I immediately thought the worst. Once she got over that, she just said: 'We adopted you when you were six months old." That was almost 30 years

When do you tell children they are adopted? The 'bolt from the blue' approach is outdated, says Ann Treneman

ago, but Alan tells his story with great attention to detail around the breakfast table at his Northampton home. His 13-year-old son Chris is listening. "I'd be mad if that happened to me," he says, looking at his father. "I'd hit

the ceiling." It never will happen to Chris, though, because both he and his sister have always known they were adopted. There are no secrets or shame about the subject in this family now. "Even when Chris was a baby, before he could talk, the word adopted was being said

to him," Alan says. Alan and his wife Pamela decided to be totally open about adoption, partly because of Alan's experience, but also because that is now expected of adoptive parents. "The child should know from the beginning," says Donal Giltinan, the Scottish director for the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering. "It's

PALYON ERISSWORE WESTERS

The six winners of the May Day jumbo crossword, published in Weekend on May 3, who will each receive

£100, are: J. Green of London SWI; N. Miller of

Cranfield, Bedfordshire; J. Morgan of Caernarvon;

A. Mylward of Derby; E. Price of West Bromwich; and

P. Robinson of Bristol.

not a matter of sitting them down at a certain age and telling them. It should be part of their upbringing. For as long as the child can remember, he will know that his

parents chose him." The world of adoption has been transformed since Alan received his double blow in 1968. The open approach means that the experience of someone like the MP Clare Short, who was reunited with her son, will become rarer. Now the birth mother may even visit the child occasionally, or communicate via a

third-party "letterbox" system. Confidentiality remains an issue for most, however, and that can make publicity difficult. This is the case with Alan and Pamela's daughter. though not with Chris, who is from South Africa.

One reason for this brave new world is practical: most children adopted in Britain are between the ages of five and ten. For them, adoption is a completely different landscape. It's not about making a fresh start anymore, it's about allowing a child a sense of continuity and to keep them in touch with their past. This is something that is important to all of us," says Leigh Cham-bers, a BAAF spokeswoman.

Alan feels no bitterness towards his parents for keeping his secret for so long, but he shudders to think what might have happened if he had found out accidentally during his own rebellious teenage years. "Would I have suddenly flipped and been a total rebel and started going criminal? I don't know. Some people are affected in that way. Or they have gone the opposite way and become recluses. They

don't lead normal lives." Certainly many youngsters find out the hard way that they are adopted. Carolyne Carter. an intermediary who helps people search for their birth families, says: "Some people's stories are dreadful. They find out when the neighbours shout it out in the middle of a row or find a bit of paper at the bottom of a drawer." Carolyne was told she was adopted when she was very young, but the subject was not discussed.

In contrast, Chris Biggar has not one but two "life story" books that contain photobeen reassured otherwise." graphs, cards and other me-This certainly is not somementoes. His book has a thing that Chris feels and it is calendar showing the day he. accepted that, at age 18, he will

friends and family to announce the arrival of a bouncing three-day-old boy. hris does not hide his interest in his birth mother and over the years has had many questions on the subject. Such curiosity is seen by his parents as natural and a fact of their lives. Being open about adoption is not a matter of having one or two heart-to-heart talks: it is an ongoing process. "It develops as a child gets older," says Alan, now 52. "They may say nothing about it for months, and then you get a preck of questions."

came to live with Pamela and

Alan and the "adoption an-

nouncement" they sent out to

week of questions." Honesty has its risks, however. Some truths are harder than others, and information must be handled with particular care in cases where, say, a child is a product of rape. In other ways it can be the parents who feel threatened. There used to be a fear that once a child knew they were adopted that they might reject their adoptive parents and search out their birth parents. This may be irrational, but

today," Mr Giltinan says. "A lot of people who search for their birth parents wait until their parents die, because they feel it would be disloyal to do it earlier. That is the message they pick up and they have not

seek out his birth mother. "We

all just live with knowing

that," Pamela says. "There is not going to be anything traumatic about it. Christopher has already told us. 'It's not because I don't love you or want you to be my parents. I just want to know what she looks like.' It will help to complete his picture of what has been going on." Alan's picture may never be

complete. He knows a little bit about his birth parents - his birth father was Scottish, for instance, and that he was the product of a wartime affair but he has never searched for them. It's something that Chris cannot understand: he is curious and finds it odd that his father is not.

"By the time I found out I thought, well, it really doesn't make any difference. Knowing earlier would have made me more inquisitive to find my blood parents. But I spent so long not knowing that it didn't matter any more."

Suddenly Alan sounds brisk. "Obviously it is possible that somewhere around the country I've got a half brother and sister." It's the kind of thing that his son will not have to wonder about.



The official celebration a few months after Chris's adoption

Lessons in life

Ruth Gledhill attends a remarkable morning service at Rugby school devised and conducted by its pupils



SEATED IN a front pew in the overpoweringly-ornate chapel at Rugby school was like being at the wrong end of a kaleidoscope. Apart from a bomb alert and roadworks, I had only myself to blame for being late

for the 8.30am morning ser-vice, so late that everyone had already left for their morning classes.

I cowered, expecting a thorough ticking off, but instead the chaplain; the Rev Keith Jones. beamed forgiveness. Pupils from the school's Christian fellowship had put on that morning's service and, by coincidence, all but one were on study breaks. Within five minutes, they were back and I was the privileged, sole recipient of morning worship, take two.

Pupils in Rugby's art department, headed by Ian Burke, have been commissioned by the publishers Cassell to illustrate The Times Book of Prayers, a collection of more than 300 prayers written by Times readers, and I was

there to collect their drawings.

Besides having an impressive academic record, Rugby also emphasises the importance of developing the spiritual side of life. The £4,430-a-term school, founded in 1657, is still famed for its great reforming 19th-century head master. Dr Tom Arnold, a celebrated preacher. Just seconds into the remarkable 15-minute service put on by its teenage pupils, it was easy to see why Rugby's

"As he was hanging on the Cross, Jesus

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began to recite psalm 22," Katherine said. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" cried Tom, from the lost recesses of the altar. Stew read the rest of the psalm, up to: "They share out my clothing among them and

cast lots for my clothing."

Katherine, who at 17 had been through a lifetime's worth of suffering in the space of nine weeks, began to speak. "It started with a culmination of things. The death of a close friend, the rejection of someone I cared about, a relationship and communication breakdown in my family, as well as acute medical problems, and work." She was left shattered. she said, holding life's strings tightly.

Helena read from Matthew's gospel, describing Jesus's plea to have the cup that was to come removed from him. "Yet not my will, but yours, be done," she said.

Katherine continued. In hospital she had learnt two things. "The first was that you can let go of the fragments of yourself and start again. The second was that you can't make assumptions about your life." The burden was lifted when her music teacher at home told her: "Look to your music. It is good, God is there. God is with you." She discovered her friends had not deserted her, that she could survive and enjoy life.

After prayers, we departed for coffee and tea at the chaplain's house, before the pupils left to continue their lessons. I was alone once again but, strangely, no longer felt it.

■ Rugby school, Rügby; Warwickshire CV22 5EH



The Rev Keith Jones at Rugby school

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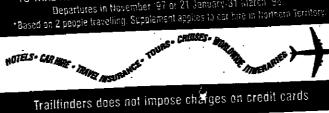
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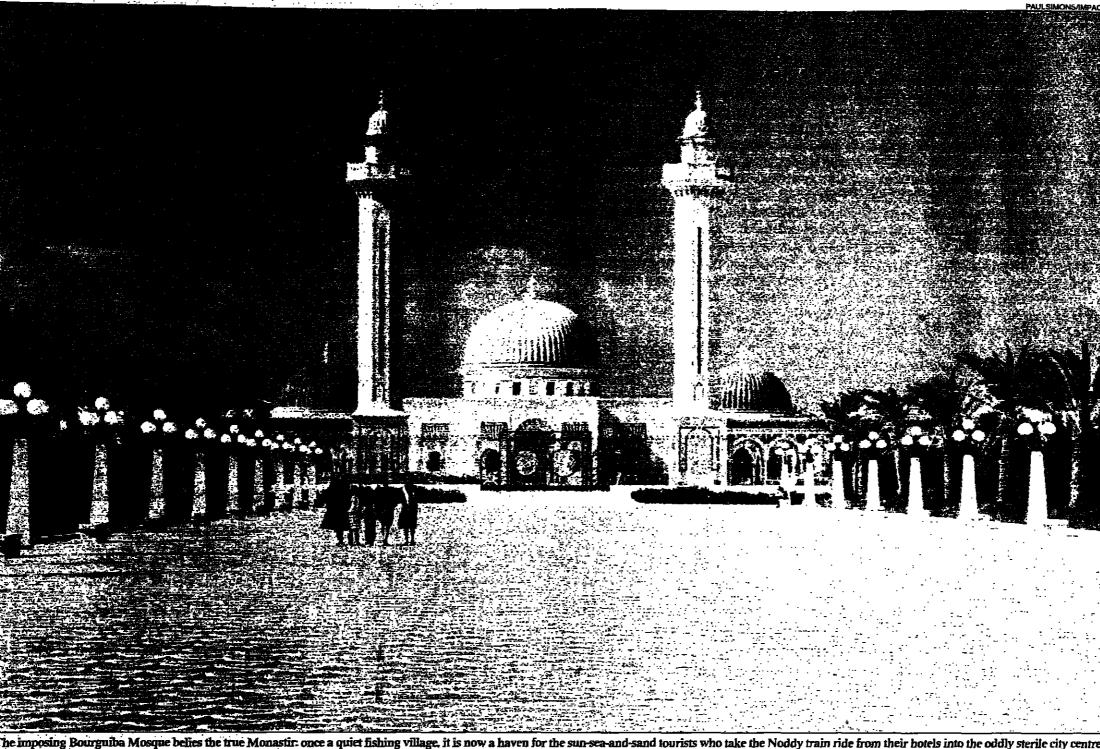
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Take your partners for a tourist two-step



FACT FILE

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Restaurant meals are good value, £6-£20. ■ The Tunisian dina (about 70p), is not available outside the country. Sterling credit cards are accepted

Best times to visit are May to mid-July and September to October Temperatures in Augus Tunisian National

Tourist Office, 77a Wigmore Street, London WIH 9LJ (0171-224 5561). ■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260)

(Routledge, £16.99); Salammbo, by Gustav Tunisia, (Rough Guide,

The imposing Bourguiba Mosque belies the true Monastir: once a quiet fishing village, it is now a haven for the sun-sea-and-sand tourists who take the Noddy train ride from their hotels into the oddly sterile city centre

hat was it, then. Hammamet. The last restaurant, the last hotel, the last tourists with their sunblocked faces and their low-slung shoulder bags. The coast road stretches ahead and I settle back in the bus.

Tunisia is playing Namibia in the African football league and the commentary blasts over the radio. The driver hunches over the wheel, eyes on the road, ears on the commentary. Every free kick brings an excited burst of speed. Every offside puts the foot harder on the accelerator. I dread a goal.

We pass the Fabland amusement park and the open-air markets where Dralon three-piece suites are dotted round the dusty fields. We pass women in veils heaving home white plastic garden furniture. We pass butchers' shops with sheep's and cows' heads hung outside (to show the meat is fresh).

After a couple of miles, we hit a building site. A half-built hotel. Then another, two more, another. Is this right? Forty hotels being built simultaneously along the shoreline? Mile after straggling mile of en-suite bathrooms and buffet breakfasts

and refillable mini-bars? It is New Hammamet South, an astonishing vote of confidence in Tunisia. Hannnamet, the oldest and most characterful of the country's Mediterranean-resorts, already has 42,000 beds. New

Hammamet South will add 30,000. The hotels - none, by decree, higher than the tallest palm — will cater partly for the four million tourists lured here

each year by cheap packages.

But the trend is subtly upmarket.

Special-interest holidays include bridge. painting, golf - and, with a flash of silver shoes and sparkling sequins, sequence dancing. Take your partners, please, for the Tunisian tourist two-step.

"Our Scandinavian market has increased by 48 per cent over the past year," points out. Loth Bourguiba from the Government tourism office. They like to play golf and it is one of our new products." Really? Scandinavians? "Norway. Sweden. Denmark." explains
M Bourguiba, helpfully.
Bourguiba is the most famous name in

Tunisia. Habib Bourguiba — Lotfi's great uncle — was the architect of his country's independence from France, He ruled from 1956 until his overthrow in 1987. Ruled absolutely. in the 1980s, television programmes were frequently interrupted by two-minute bursts from his key speeches. At 2pm, it might be a speech from 1974. At 3.30pm, a speech from 1959. Sometimes he appeared as an old man;

and sometimes as a very old man. Despite independence, the French influence lingers. Tunis is a poor man's Paris with palm trees. French is the second language. And in the souks, many nomists first brush with The Exotic East. the atmosphere is laid-back in an agree-

ably French way. In Nabeul, a few miles north of Hammamer, the browsing thousands run a gentle gauntlet of traders between the Mini-Souk and Ali Baba's Grono, Small birds chirp in any cages. Racks of postcards bleach slowly in the sun. The stallholders pursue the traditional trades - metal-hammering, carper-weaving and

"You like Tunisia? Very nice. To you, very cheap. Old sites. Lots of new hotels.'

Stephen McClarence

takes up the offer

tourist-luring. You would like this leather dog basket? Or this expandable pouffe? Or this antique couscous bowl? Very old. Have a shufty, sir, How much for this donkey saddle? Good price. Very good price. Which country? Allemande? Français? "Norway." I say, remembering the Scandinavian golfers. "Ah," says the trader. "Beautiful fiords."

An English couple waddle towards him. Both are wearing tight shorts. He carries a 4ft-long stuffed toy camel under his arm; she makes do with a handbag. They eye a display of ashtrays. The trader is straight in: "How much? High price for Germans. But not for English. English

are skint. Live and let live." Back at the Hammamet hotel, the sun is setting. Pink mares' tails trail across a purple sky. Swallows dart; bats flit; boats bob. The Hockney-blue swimming pool is empty; the loungers are deserted; ghostly Pan pipe music — the hotel soundtrack plays from a small loudspeaker in the

geraniums. But no one hears it. Most of the guests, with their salmonpink bathrobes and lobster-pink faces, are back in their rooms, resting after a day of

Out on the beach, beyond the plantations of sun shades, sun-seekers have left their flip-flop prints behind them in the sand. The only sounds are the waves and the call of the muezzin, and the hopeful "hellos" of two Tunisian men eyeing up

two German women.
Here, at sunset, with a soft wind blowing through the mimosa trees, there is peace and poetry and a hint of the legendary Mediterranean of Virgil and Homer. It is easier to find inland, through a scrubby landscape of olive groves and ploughing donkeys, at some of the world's finest Roman sites.

Carthage, the most potent name, may be little more than a glorified rockery. But at Dougga, the Romans could just have pulled out, leaving their town to the grazing goats. And, further south, El Djem's colossal oval Colosseum is betterpreserved than Rome's.

The massive outside walls loom like a fortress across the plain. The inside is less complete - a skeleton structure of arches. arcades, corridors and tunnels. It's like strolling round a whale's rib cage. Without the roar of traffic that blights Rome's Colosseum the mind's ear hears the clamour of 30,000 voices as animals. gladiators and Christians confront each other. It still feels brutal, baking in the midday sun, a place of blood and death.

In shady corners, surreal fragments of statues - a pair of clasped hands, the folds of a toga erected on a plinth - are covered with graffiti. Ahmed, Malek and Ferid have followed the example of "J.C. Vickrey, Aug '43", and "G. Bisbardi, Controleur Tabacs, 1884", vandalising their way into history.

Up the road is an immaculately kept

museum of Roman mosaics. Orpheus strums his lute to charm the vicious animals and a homicidally fierce duck. Centaurs and Nereides disport, the young Dionysus rides a melancholy tiger, a large man pats a small elephant, a naked couple entwine themselves in vines. It's a world of Bacchanalian plenty picked out in stone jigsaws.

The collection is small enough not to overwhelm the visitor - the potential hazard of the vast and wonderful displays at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis with their eccentric line in captions. "Among scrolls of vine-vintaging cupids." runs one, "we can see a kennelman and low greyhounds."

Many tourists want none of this. They are happy with their hotel and their beach, with sun and sand and perhaps the occasional Noddy train ride into the oddly sterile centre of Monastir.

Port El Kantsoui has been built for them - a pastiche resort of Tunisia Toytown architecture clustered round a marina. A leisure concept, not a place. Families wander between the Moby Dick disco boat and the Neptune Restaurant, approached through an open shark's jaw framed by cut-outs of shiver-me-timbers

aybe, just maybe, the tourists will risk a trip to Kairouan, the holy city dominated by the citadel of its Great Mosque. It offers, at the Tapis Cherif carpet warehouse, one of the best floorshows outside Las Vegas.

Here, the rolled-up carpets are stacked at the end of the showroom like pillars. Lassaad, a chunky young man with an engaging sales pitch, steps forward: "I show you please first the classical carpet, about the size two metre." An assistant seizes a carpet from the stack and hurls it down. It hits the floor with a thud like a distant cannon and unrolls. Four months is hand-made with two women. Ah, very nice. And very nice price. . " He pulls his calculator from his top pocket, darts his forefinger over it and looks up with the triumphant smile of a magician finishing a trick. "£1,700, included transport until

your house." It's only the start. "I show you now flying carpets. . . " Out they come, thrown on top of each other, a 3ft Princess and the Pea pile. "And this . . . very new, like baby carpet, my friend."

I do not buy. Not here. Not in Hammamet. Not even in Sidi Bou Said, the instantly pretty village resort outside Tunis whose biblically boxy houses have low domes echoing the curves of their satellite dishes.

The village, a sort of Tunisian Montmartre, is a rhapsody in blue and white. Why, I ask M Bourguiba from the tourist office, is everything painted this dazzlingly pure blue? "Ah, le bleu." he whispers. "C'est le couleur du ciel et de la mer." It is the colour of the sky and the sea. He

Norwegian Coastal Voyage offers the traveller scenery Lan an epic scale together with a wonderful feeling of peace and tranquillity. It is difficult to imagine a more relaxing setting than coastal Norway. The immense size of the fjords and the timeless quality of scenes that have changed little in the past centuries create a unique atmosphere that can be particularly enjoyed from the comfort of a coastal vessel.

the Norwegian Coastal Fleet which ply the coast daily from Bergen to the far north of Norway provide a vital link to the isolated coastal communities. Obviously, this is not a cruise in the accepted sense of the word, but all the more enjoyable for many because of the absence of the usual jollifications. These working vessels have a dual role of providing transportation to local passengers and freight as well as offering cruise places to overseas visitors. This unique service provides

the ideal means of seeing Coastal

life in a way that would not be

Norway and experiencing Norwegian

The new generation ships of

possible on a regular cruise ship. The Coastal Fleet has a fine tradition for providing excellent wholesome food and a caring and efficient service. The vessels offer all you would expect of a modern, purpose-built ship; the 230 cabins have private facilities and spacious public areas which include a dining room, cafe, lounges, bar, library and shop. .

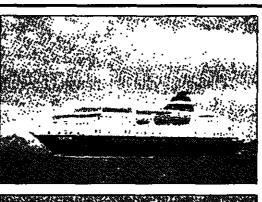
THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London (Heathrow) to Bergen with Scandinavian Airlines, arriving early afternoon. Embark Coastal vessel. Afternoon free to explore Norway's second largest city, strikingly located between the mountains and the sea. Sail

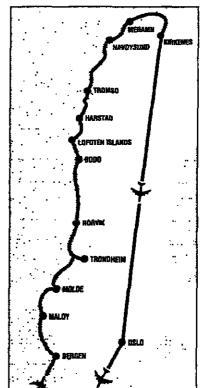
in the early evening.

Day 2 Maloy to Molde. Morning call to Maloy and continue to Alesund, passing the isle of Runde, which is home to over 500,000 seabirds. Explore Alesund, a picturesque port built on three islands and sail to Molde. Here the views are stunning, 78 peaks of the Romsdal

Day 3 Trondheim to Rorvik, Arrive at the first Viking capital of Trondheim, a



A NINE DAY VISIT TO OSLO, THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS AND ACROSS THE ARCTIC CIRCLE TO THE NORTH CAPE



delightful city with a distinctly medieval feel to it. See the imposing cathedral and Bishop's palace. Sail out of the Trondheim Fjord past the nch fishing banks for an afternoon at sea. Day 4 Bodo to Lofoten Islands. Cross the Arctic Circle and navigate the many channels, passing some of the enchanting villages. In Bodo there will be the opportunity to take a trip to the top of Mount Ronvik with its magnificent views. In the afternoon sail to the Lofoten Islands, where farrytale villages by the

edge of the sea are backed by towering jagged granite peaks. Day 5 Harstad to Tromso. After a bnel call at Harstad we will sail into Tromso, the largest town north of the Arene Circle. This is a thriving city with two excellent museums and some amazing architecture. Be sure to visit the stunning modem cathedral. Day 6 Havoysund to Mehamn. The highlight of today will be the opportunity to visit the North Lape plateau which rises almost 1000 feet out of the sea. Day 7 Kirkenes to Oslo. Disembark after breakfast and fly to Oslo. Brief orientation tour of the city. Stay 2 nights at the first class Vika Amum Hotel (or similar) which is centrally located and ideally placed for exploring Norway's capital.

Day 8 Oslo. This is an ideal city to explore on foot. Be sure to visit the Maritime Museum which includes Amundsen's Polar ship

Gjoa and splendid examples of Viking ships.

Day 9 Oslo to London. Morning free in Oslo. Early afternoon departure for airport for Scandinavian Airlines flight to Heathrow, arriving late afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON 8 July, 4 August 1997

Grade 12 Two ibed & cofat

Grade L2	Tum (bed & soft)	£149;				
Grade P2	Tion thed & wfa!	£1569				
Grade T1	Two for sole use	£2154				
2 September 1997, 29 April 1998						
Grade 12	Twin (bed & sofu)	£1369				
Grade L2	Twin (hed & sign)	£1479				
Grade P2	Twin thed & sofat	£1539				
Grade T1	Twin for sole use	£1895				
	20 May 1998					
Grade 12	Twin (bed & sofu)	£1465				

Grade L2 Town that & sofa) £1570 Grade P2 Twin (hed & cofu) £1648 Grade T1 Tum for sole use

Price includes: Economy class air travel London/Rergen and Kirkenes/Oslo-London, 6 nights aboard a Norwegian Coastal vessel on full board, transfers, 2 nights in Oslo at the Vika Amum Hotel on breakfast only basis, excursion in Oslo port taxes, airport raxes. UK departure tax, four manager Not included: Travel insurance, shore excursions, tips to crew,

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376 G days a week during office hours).

NOBLE (FLEDONIA LIMITED)

11 CHAPLES STPEET, MAYFAIR, LONDON WIX BLE TELEPHONE 0171-409 0376 FACSIMILE 0171-409 0834 24 HOUP BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424 Sports tours: Rugby and more in vibrant New Zealand; cricket in the Caribbean; football in France



An ideal holiday for the converted

he 300ft drop into the Lost World at Waitomo was daunting. It manered little that nose taking the plunge by beging into the abyss were ecurely trussed, their every tove overseen by an experinced guide. The request to wing out and away from the anctuary of the launching datform was straightforward nough, its execution far from Nervous laughter echoed round the rim of what was

ince a huge volcano. What vere we all doing here? Perversely, a group of us ere following Scotland's rugw four to New Zealand last ear. Such is the nature and arrety of sports tours, a narket growing by 10 per cent year, that exone, historic, ultural or unusual locations re built into any itinerary. The beauty of such expediions is the variety and flexibilty they ofter. Itineraries can e tailored to suit budget, imescale and demand; the nost extreme example in re-ent years being the two mends from Melton Mowray in Leicestershire who lew to New Zealand for the

lay in 1993 to watch the

lecisive third and final test

serveen New Zealand and the

harp a warm british (-1278 1970) or re-

celebrities - for example, the two centre-two Test tour to Cape cost from £L577. ■ World of Sport (01444 417811) has a selection of six packages for the Lions tour to South Africa.

Zealand in 1971 the idea of

travelling supporters had barely been conceived. Now,

5,000 people will be in South

Africa this summer to follow

the Lions, who play their first

Mike Roberts, a former

Welsh international who

toured New Zealand and who

now runs Sport Abroad, says

rugby is played in parts of the world which people want to visit anyway. "Which support-

er would say no to seeing New

Zealand, South Africa or Aus-

extra cost.

game today.

Sport Abroad (01306 744345) has flights to South Africa for the British Lions tour from £599, including guaranteed match tickets, Cape Town (June 21). Durban (June 28) and Johannesburg (July 5). Escorted tours with rugby Town and Durban from June 19-29,

Flights and match tickets costs from £885, with tours escorted by

former Welsh international J.P.R. Williams from £1,449. 🕿 Lawrie's Travel (0131-554 0471) offers flights from London to Johannesburg for one week, including seven days' unlimited car hire, for £650, based on two people travelling.

Other sports tour firms

3517): Caribbean Connection (01244 329556); David Dryer Sports Tours (0171-831 7799): Gullivers (01684 293175). Air New Zealand (0181-741 times a week. Low season (April

include, Caribtours (0171-58)

2299) flies Heathrow-Auckland five 16-June 30) fares start from about £690. which includes a stopover in Los Angeles. For an extra £60 you

land caters for every pocket.

Ian Scott, a director of the company says: "Our first big tour was to the World Cup in New Zealand in 1987 and that side of the business has grown steadily ever since. A lot of people book up again." Derek Stevenson, employee

relations director with Scottish Courage, put money into a building society account each month for two years to pay for his three-week holiday. "Tours offer a unique blend, travelling with the team, seeing it develop and combining it with extensive travel around the country in a way one would never have normally done on a holiday," he says. "There were about 40 of us; we got together for the matches then went our separate ways in between. It was a really good blend and we got more out of it than we

expected.
"We wanted to see New Zealand in between the matches and we did. We drove from Blenheim to Dunedin and then Wellington to Auckland and the Bay of Islands. It was the first trip like that I'd been on but I can't recommend it highly enough."

Old and new worlds rub shoulders happily in New Zealand. Parts of it are a wilderness, remote, rugged and beautiful, its quiet towns and villages evocative of Britain in a bygone era. Nothing epitomised that more than a journey in the local post bus, a lifelife to the community

strung out along the course of the Wanganui river, into the hinterland where once thriving communities disappeared after the railway took over from the waterway as the main transport artery. Meeting three nuns in the isolated hamlet of Jerusalem, and being welcomed by Maori choirs trying to safeguard their culture in remote areas were humbling experiences.

All this does not mean that the country as a whole has stood still Auckland is as cosmopolitan and vibrant a city as any in the world, but it is when the curtain is pulled back and the interior exposed that one appreciates the richness of New Zealand.

ost of the de-lights of the South island are well documented: the peaks of the Southern Alps; skiing at Queenstown; the Franz Josef glacier and helicopter rides over the barren wilderness of the south west corner.

The more populous North Island has different attractions: swimming with dol-phins in the Bay of Islands; black-water rafting in the Waitomo Caves, and horse racing around Hamilton give another sporting perspective. Those who followed Scot-

land last year enjoyed an unforgettable experience. Where else could one endure a minor earthquake as we did in Wanganui, witness a volcano erupting at breakfast as Mount Ruapehu did in full view of the hotel and see some of the best rugby one could hope for?

MARK SOUSTER



British Lions. Otherwise, one tralia and combine it with can run with the pack, travel their favourite sport? People direct or stopover in say. Hong can dip in and out, stay for one Kong or Fiji, at little or no week or one month, and it is a way of meeting like-minded When the Lions beat New individuals, making new

friends." As one of three official operators, Sport Abroad guar-

As hundreds of British rugby fans enjoy the first match of the Lions

tour in Port Elizabeth today, a greater

army of supporters are planning their

itinerary back home. For despite so many

disappointing results, the England crick-

et team can expect an even larger

following than the Lions when they visit

During the last tour, 5,000 English fans poured into the tightly packed stands at

the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

Barbados, to inspire their team to a rare

victory. And when the two sides meet

there again next March, even more English supporters will be watching.

The teams - and the tour operators

who have recognised the trend - are

benefiting from an increasing desire

among holidaymakers to enjoy their fav-ourite sport in an exotic setting. For many

it means watching cricket in the Carib-

bean, football in Italy and motor racing

the West Indies next winter.

antees tickets to the three tests internationals in Cape Town. Durban and Johannesburg, which have long been a sell out. Its tours include a group leader, invariably a former international player, such as Gavin Hastings or Willie John

McBride, the cost of whose

TOURS FOR SPORTS FANS FACT FILE

presence is built into the price. Lawrie's Travel in Edin-burgh sent several people to New Zealand last year on trips lasting three or four-weeks. Some spent thousands of pounds indulging themselves: others with more limited resources found that New Zea-

in the holiday companies, which will cruising the Caribbean in a luxury liner have relatively little notice of where and and putting into port in time for the Tests.

Carib Tours has signed up the cricketing Cowdrey family — Sir Colin and his two sons Chris and Graham — to lead its when the big games will take place.
In the meantime, firms like David

Dryer Sports Tours are urging England on by providing packages for lans to the crucial qualifying game in Poland next Saturday. The company is one of the few which can link tours to almost any leading sporting event whether it is a big fight, the Indianapolis 500 or Superbowl. Dyer is even thinking of arranging trips to tournaments featuring minority sports, including basketball and volleyball.

TONY DAWE

Eye on the ball, suitcase at the ready offering packages to the West Indies. The enthusiasm for the cricket tour is in Monaco. This winter they will have a greater choice than ever. Caribbean likely to be overshadowed, however, by interest in next year's World Cup football Connection will shortly announce an extensive programme of tours to take in finals in France. If England or Scotland all or one of the Test matches in Jamaica, succeed in making it to the finals, the rush for tickets will be matched by panic The company is also planning the most upmarket way to follow the team - by

can include unlimited stopovers

Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

■ New Zealand Tourist Board

recommends: A People's Game,

£14.99); Classic New Zealand

New Zealand Travel Survival

Kit (Lonely Planet. £12.99).

by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Hodder,

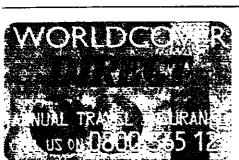
Adventures (Compass Star, £10.99);

Reading: The Travel

Bookshop (0171-229 5260)

(0171-930 1662).

in the South Pacific, taking in Tahiti,



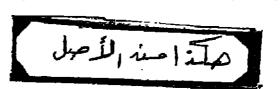
Singapore

Call new of we could make largest All first lessed are return from London. All fares may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop. Or book and pay at our internet site, http://erwestbystuth-airways.com For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

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tours to Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua

and provide expert comments after the day's play. Prices will start from £1,630

for nine nights' accommodation, flights,

match tickets and a gala dinner. Specialist companies including Sport Abroad,

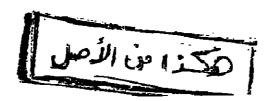
Gullivers Sports Travel and those bear-

ing the names of former international

sportsmen such as Mike Burton, the

England rugby player, will also be

Munich



ORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Perils of deep diving

From George Cameron,

was horrified by Martin Popplewell's article on diving in Fiji (Weekend, May 17). He writes of diving to 2008 tenhanced by nitrogen narcosis. Diving's regulatory bodies do not agree on the water than the property of the property o not agree on the maximum depth for recreational diving but they would not recom-mend 200ft as safe. Nitrogen narcosis can never he recommended. Along with the entras-sive depth, it is like saying that around the M25 at 150mph;

From Patricia Higgs, Bristol: Disney should give much reduced entrance fees to people who are not able to leave their wheelchairs. My son, who broke his neck in 1986, visited Disneyland Paris



with his family in March. He was charged full price and could use very little. The excuse was health and salety .

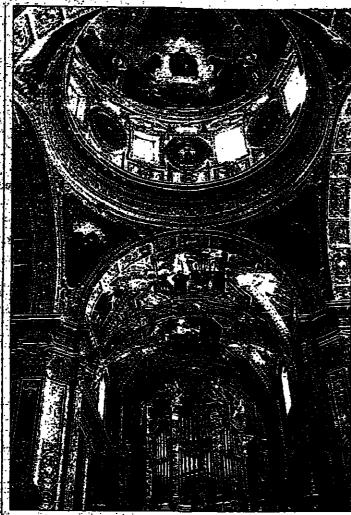
From Io Cleary and Tim Hughes, Nottingham: Michael - Woods (Weekend, May 17) writes as fhough eastern England has just been opened to cyclists. The quiet lanes, bridleways and villages have always been available to anybody with a bicycle. Just pick up an Ordnance Survey map, follow its small yellow roads and obtain accommodation details from a tourist information centre. But don't trear any route as the only path: use it as a basis for making your own discoveries of Britain's quarter of a mil-

lion miles of country lanes. We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to Letters, Travel Department, The Times I Pennington Street, London El 9XN or fax 0171-782 5124.

OVER

ARRIVING

7am



The abbey at Montecassino, once the most important in western Christendom, in its restored glory, left, and after it was bombed during the Second World War, right

Great abbeys of Italy

A NEW tour in October from archaeology and ancient hist-ory specialist Andante Travel (01980 610555) traces the beginnings of Christianity in Rome and the rise of the great abbeys of central Italy.

Starting with catacombs and monuments of early Christians, the tour then takes in the monastic establishments at Subiaco, and several other abbeys and villas as well as Montecassino, once the most important abbey in western Christendom, now reconstructed after being obliterated during the Second World War. The nine day trip costs £1,126 which covers flights, all meals and entrance

Air pass LATTN American Air Passes

from Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) enable travel-

TWANSEA CORK FERRIES

Miles ahead of the the rest

you can take a package that includes hotel or gite accommodation, route planner and the use of a donkey from the Federation Nationale Anes et Randonnées. Telephone (from the UK) 00 33 492 652252. Donkey rental costs about £22-£30 a day (£130-

Ape rescue

£200) a week.

IF YOU want to help orang-utans which have been res-cued from the pet trade, or from capture during logging, you can join world expert Dr Birute Galikas's project to monitor how they re-adapt to the wild in the tropical rainforests of Borneo.

Two-week environmental holidays are organised by the environmental travel firm Discovery Initiatives (0171-229 9881), staying in a forest lodge just outside the Tanjung Puting National Park during June and July. The cost is £2,145 all inclusive.

Cruising

WITH cruising now Britain's fastest growing holiday sector, direct sell Portland Holidays (0990) 002200) is introducing a Far East cruise-and-stay fort-

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

lers to notch up the miles. Using its Visit Central Amerinight in its summer 1998 programme. A week's cruise ca Airpass makes it possible to on board the 900 passenger combine Central and South Superstar Gemini costs from America; a typical 4,794 mile route from Mexico to Guate-£945-£1,199 including flights. and starts at Phuket in Thaimala City. San Jose and Rio land and sails to Singapore, costs from £331, just 7p a mile. Kuala Lumpur, the island of Langkawi and back to Phuket, The Mercosur airpass provides a cheap way of linking Brazil with Argentina, Uruwhere passengers spend the last six nights. On stay-put guay and Paraguay; a route including Buenos Aires, Monholidays, the cheapest in next years' brochure is a week's self-catering in Palma, Majortevideo, Ascuncion, Rio, Iguacu and Salvador costs £260. ca for the first week in May for

£89, rising to £249 in high season. Children get a 25 per which works out at 6p a mile. FOR THOSE who cent discount. prefer a donkey to a Gambian roots

rucksack to carry your luggage as you walk the Britany coast, the THE Roots mountains above the Côte Homecoming d'Azur or in the Cevennes, Festival in The Gambia from June 14-21 commemorating the 300th anniversary of the transportation of millions of Africans into

slavery, is to be a celebration of Gambian culture through music, dance and arts. West African specialist The

Gambia Experience (01703 730888) has flights only for B&B from £318.

Though West Africa has nothing like the big game of East and Southern Africa, it does have a profusion of bird life, with some 250 species spotted in and around the River Gambia. A birdwatching safari with expert Clive Barlow costs £768 for halfboard and flights.

Fast movers

DESPITE World Champion Damon Hill's recent results, Grand Prix fever continues to grip the British public. During the Silverstone Grand Prix, the Hilton National in War-wick is offering a three-night B&B break from the July 11-14 July. The price of £397 includes two dinners, a talk by former Formula 1 driver Derek Warwick, a chance to watch qualifying sessions on

the Saturday and Grandstand seats for the big race on

Sunday. From June 20-22 at its Portsmouth Hotel, two nights half-board, entrance to the Goodwood Festival of Speed and tickets to horse racing at Goodwood cost £219. Reservations and details of other special motoring events from 0800 856 8002.

If you feel like a high octane weekend behind the wheel, the Nigel Mansell Racing School on the Brands Hatch circuit offers a day's tuition including five solo laps in a racing car, staying two nights at Brandshatch Place (01474 872239), for £210 per person including breakfast. A similar arrangement at Donington Park Race Track with the Jim Russell Driving School, with accommodation at The Priest House (01332 810649) costs

VISAS for Lebanon ffrom where the Pope has recently returned) may now be obtained for £10 for

of the previous tedious procedures that took place via the Embassy. Middle

15 days on your arrival at the

airport, thankfully, instead

East specialist Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) offers three nights B&B weekends in Beirut for £488, including

Sardinia sun

A NEW weekly air service runs until the October 4between Stansted and Alghero in Sardinia. During May and June, Holiday Options (0)444 881414) is offering return flights from £149, and one week self-catering holidays including flights from £199-£219.

Ouids in

WITH sterling the healthiest it has been against the French franc for some years, staying in the small family-run Logis hotels and sampling regional cooking and wines is better value than ever. It is now possible to book the accommo-

Open doors. Open hearts. Open minds. Hungary

dation in advance in this country, as well as getting help with finding establishments to suit your planned itinerary from Logis of Great Britain (01865 875888). The average B&B price per couple in France is £45.50. There are also 375 Logis in Britain, but the B&B price per couple is higher, around £60.

SHORT break cruises to Norway from ColorLine (019296 1313) include a minicruise sailing from Newcastle to Bergen, with time to go ashore for shopping and sightseeing for £69 per person. A four-day cruise with one night's accommodation in Bergen

costs £99. Under-16s pay 50

Novel idea

A MADAME BOVARY trail around 40 miles or so of the Seine Maritime, links sites believed to have inspired Flaubert's classic novel.

A leaflet in English leaflet is available from the Syndicat d'Initiative des Trois Vallées (00 33 235 23 40 74).

TRAVEL NEWS

Amex tests debit

HOLIDAYMAKERS will t able to budget better for the trip to America this summe as American Express tests it first debit card in the UK, wit dollars pre-loaded onto the card as a form of electroni travellers cheque.

The card can then be use as a normal debit card a Amex retail outlets or at cas dispensers.

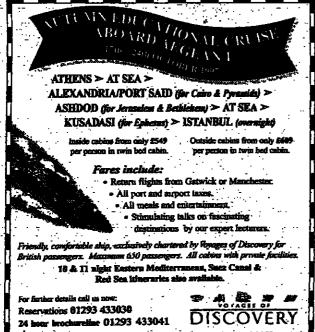
One of the reasons wh holiday travellers like to hav travellers cheques is that ther is a finite amount of mone and they can budget better. says Henry Autrey, Ame senior vice-president for it travellers cheques group.

"We are looking at differen forms of cash. Electronic ap plications in travel are changing the way people arthinking about travel and how to pay for it." Around 1,000 a the cards will be issued in the pilot study with Lunn Poly Lloyds and the Royal Bank o Scotland.

But early figures show tha the card may prove a false economy. British people are putting an average £800 or the card, compared to £670 when buying ordinary travel lers cheques.

GOLF for under £20 a day is on offer to Brittany holiday makers who buy four or six day passes. Cresta Holiday: (0161-929 1311) is selling the passes for £77 and £112 respectively. They can be used a seven courses in south Britta ny. The company has oneweek holidays from £83 per person, based on four sharing

■ TRAVEL bookings via the Internet will have a worldwide value of £500 million this year — but the figure will rise to £5 billion by 2002, according to a US research company. However, many British holidaymakers still value the services of a travel agent, said Peter Shanks, managing director of Going Places. The company sold two million holidays last year - and only one was through the Internet.



Hungary is the richest country in the world...

> ...at least in bealing spas. Whether we make use of the curative effects of spring water by drinking it or take thermal waters like the ancient Romans or the Pashas of the Ottoman Empire or royals of Europe, our bealth can only benefit from it. Nowadays, bundreds of thermal

springs and baths welcome the new pilgrims in Budapest and across Hungary. Spas cure the ailing and rejuvenate the bealthy. If you only wish to get away from it all', come and enjoy floating in those miraculous waters.

Hungary awaits you with a thousand-year-old bospitality.

For more information, please HUNGARIAN NATTONAL TOURIST OFFICE C'O Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, Commercial Section 46 Eaton Place London SW1 8AL Tel.: (0171) 823-1032

Fax: (0171) 823-1459

Hamlet, after The Mousetrap breaks up in confusion: "What! frighted with false fire!" As Damian and Gwendolyn arrive arm-in-arm for the party: "Look, the fatuous

with the ignis fatuus."

TOURINFORM: H-1052 Budapest, Sütő u. 2. Tel. (36-1) 117-9800, Fax. (36-1) 117-9578 E-mail address: tourinform@buugary.com bomepage:http://www.bungary.com/tourinform

CORK & KERRY (c) The primordial ooze or substance from which all the elements in the universe were supposed by ancient philoso-phers to have been formed. Thought by the ancients to be SAVE water, by the moderns to be hydrogen, and by Chinese take-aways to be monosodium glutamate." **OVER** 400 **MILES** CONTRAINDICATED (b) Inadvisable, having indica-OF tions of 'don't do it'. It comes from the jargons of medicine DRIVING and pharmacology. For the treatment of hangover, ampu-tation is contraindicated." TRISTILOQUY
(b) A dull and depressing Beat the clock speech. From the Latin tristis sad and loquor, loqui to speak. "Ladies and gentlemen, to put the final fitting cap on an unforgettable evening, one For ferry passage, of Scotland's leading holiday brochure and tristiloquists, Major Campbell-Gordon-Bagpipedrone." reservations, telephone IGNIS FATUUS (c) "False fire", a will-o-thewisp, the elusive lights generor contact your local travel agent ated by marsh gas at night and likely to lure unwary travellers from their path.

Outings to shout about

SOUTH WEST

stally Wicked: Name of the ildren's events at the Salisrry Festival. Activities inide a kettle drum workshop. arionettes, the "hat" storyler, open-the-fridge game id Dick King-Smith in pern. May 25-June I. Donues in Salisbury, Wilts. 1722 323983).

ow long, short, large, rail? Scientific measurement perience. Daily until June 8. am-5pm. Adults £5, children 150, family ticket £15. Sploratory Hands-on tience Centre. Bristol ld Station. Temple Meads. ristol (0117-907 9000).

am Engines: Also vintage s, play area, picnic sites d fairground organs. Today May 26, Ham-5pm. Adults children free. Separate dmission for bird gardens: Jults £4.30, children £2.30, mily £12.80. 🐼 wood Steam Vintage Raily.

hildren's Entertainment: ance displays and fireworks Brixham Heritage Festival. oday to May 31. from 1.45pm.

lode Bird Gardens. Rode.

omerset (01373 830326).

COUNTRYWIDE KEY

South West: Wilts, Dorset. Avon, Somerset, Devon. Cornwall, South East: Beds. Bucks, Heris, Essex, Kent. West and East Sussex, Surrey, Oxon, Hants, Berks, East Anglia: Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs. East Midlands: Derbys, Notts, Northants

Leics, Lines, West Midlands. Staffs, Salop, Warwicks, Hereford and Wores, Glos North West: Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire. North: Northumberland, Cumbria. Durham, Cleveland. North East: North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside,

Some events free. (a. Various venues in Brixham. Devon (01803 85526).

Shire Horse Rides: Fancy dress, street entertainment and fairground rides at the Weymouth Oyster Festival. May 25, Ilam-5pm. Free. 🔕 The Harbour, Weymouth, Dorset (01305 772444).

Man Overboard: Demonstrations by canoe lifeguards, trawler race, fairground, face painting and fancy dress at the Weymouth Trawler Race and Water Carnival. May 26. 10am-4pm. Free. (5)
The Harbour, Weymouth,
Dorset (01305 785747).

Get Steamed Up: Watch a 1010, 300-horsepower steam engine at work. May 25-26, 10.30am-5pm. Adults £5, children 52.50, family ticket £13.50. The disabled should telephone first.
Coldharbour Mill Working Wool Museum, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon (01884 840960).

Zoo Trail: Jolly jungle bouncy castle, face painting and games at the Paws Summer Fayre at Paignton Zoo. May 26, I0am-4pm. Zoo open daily. 10am-6pm. Adults £6.60. children £4.50. Paignton Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Totnes Road, Paignton, Devon (01803 557479).

Tug of War: As well as one man and his pig. a water rescue dogs demonstration and other events at Country Fair. May 26, lOam-6pm. Adults £4, under-12s free.

Sherborne Castle, Sherborne, Dorset (01963 23630).

(Ò1296 655720).

صكذامة الاصل

SOUTH EAST On Their Bikes: Victoriancostumed cyclists, steam train rides, Punch and Judy, art competition. May 25, 26, llam-6pm. Also open May 28, llam-5pm, for steam rides. Adults £4.50. children £3. 6 Quainton Railway.

Quainton, Buckinghamshire

Station Signal Box Demon stration: Also rides on steam stranon: Also rides on steam trains. May 25-26, l0am-5pm. Open every day, l0am-5pm. Adults E5, children £3.30, family ticket £4.80. Didcot Railway Centre, Great Western Society, Didcot, Oxfordshire (01235 817200).

Touch, Explore and Experi-ment: Hands-on "scientific" exhibits at Curiodity, the friendly science exhibition for all ages". Open weekends and school holidays, 10am-4pm. Adults £2.10, children £1.80, family ticket £7.20. Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford (01865 247004).

Circus Skills Workshop: Try plate-spinning, parachute games and fruit juggling. May 28, llam-5pm. For four to nine-year-olds. Children £10. If disabled, telephone first. Booking essential. Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford (01865 798600).

Holiday Trail: Questions on Roman times and the Second World War with this family quiz. Also walk down a recon-structed 1940s street. Until June 1, 10am-5pm. Free. White Cliffs Experience, Market Square, Dover. Kent (01304 210101).

Follow the Magic Bean: Treasure hunt; get real beans to grow at home; meet furry creatures in costume; watch blacksmiths at work. Adults £5, children £2.50. Amberley Museum,

Houghton Bridge, Amberley, West Sussex (01798 831370). Medieval Longbows: jug-glers, stilt walker, knights, falcon flying, Punch and Judy at this festival of entertainment. Today to May 26, 10am-6pm. Adults £3, children £1. 🔂

Norbury Park, Leatherhead

Surrey (01344 874787).

Meet Medieval Apothecaries: watch archery and falconry, get lost in the maze. Today to May 26, Ham-5pm. Adults £6.50, children £3.30, family ticket £16.30. Hever Castle, Hever, Kent (01732 865224).

Take the Duckling Trail: Enter the name-the-duckling competition and watch ducklings hatch in incubators. Today to June 1. 1.30-4pm. Adults £4.25, children £2.25, family ticket £10.75. Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex (01903 883355).

Circus Workshop: Plus may-pole dancing and Punch and Judy. May 25-26, 10am-5pm. Admission free. Abbey Green, Battle, East Sussex (01424 774229).

Piggy Drawing: For a competition at the Piggy Picnic.
Wash a pig at Pig Bathtime
and watch the tiny trotters
going over an obstacle course. May 25-26. Adult £3.25, children El.50. (5) Rare Breeds Centre, Highland Farm, Ashford, Kent (01233 861493).

Teddy Bears' Picnic Also puppet workshops, clown, teddy portraits, face painting. May 26, llam-5pm. Adults £4, children £2. Free with teddy Michelham Priory, Upper Dicker, East Sussex

Meet the President of the USA: Plus Lily Langtry, Doc Holiday and Uncle Sam on his stilts at the Country and Western Craft Fayre. Also stunt men, mock gunfights, rope spinning and Punch and Judy. Today to May 26, 10am-6pm. Also stunt men, mock gunfights, rope spinning and Punch and Judy. Adult £3, children El. [6]
Aldenham Country Park, Elstree, Hertfordshire (01344 874787).

and adult.

(01323 844224).

Clay Modelling: Mould your own mummy mask and learn about flying goddesses at these series of half-term workshops. Part of the exhibition of Pharaoh's People. Exhibition until October. Workshops May 26-30. £5 per session: museum free. (5) Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans,

Herts (01727 819340). Barleylands Family Weekend: With steam engines, vintage tractors, farm animals, children's entertainment. farm museum, glass blowing and miniature steam railway,

Barleylands Road, Billericuy,

Essex (01268 532253).

May 25-26, 10am-5pm. Adults E3, children £1.50. 8) Barlaylands Farm Museum.

Mess About in Boats: A Wind in the Willows-style day at Wendover Canal Festival, with canal boat rides and classic cars. May 25-26, IOam-5pm. Appearance by the Lord-Mayor of London at noon. Adults E3, children E1. New Mill, Tring. Herts

(0)442 823378).

Children at Play: Catch a glimpse of 18th-century living with walk-around actors who will introduce their servants and discuss etiquette of the day. May 25-26, from midday. Adult £2.50, children £1.30. [5] Chiswick House, Burlington Lane, London W4 (0181-995 0508).

Origani: With plastic game shows and poetry readings are all part of the Challenge of Materials week. Today to June I Adults £5.95, children £3.20, family ticket £27.50. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 (9171-938-8222).

Rock History: Put your hand into an imprint made by Eric Clapton, Gloria Estefan and other rock stars. Part of a "rock and pop experience". Open daily from Ham (mid-day on Tuesdays) to 9pm (10pm Fridays and Saturdays). Adults E7.95, children Rock Circus, Piccadilly,

The Ultimate: Teenage day out with in-line skating, (01223.860988).

London W1 (0171-734.7203).

bungee jumping. course, skateboards, dodthe Capital Radio 95.8 Extravaganza. Today to May 27, 10am-7pm (6pm Tuesday). Admission £6. 6 Earls Court Exhibition

Centre. Warwick Road, London SW5 (0171-420 0958).

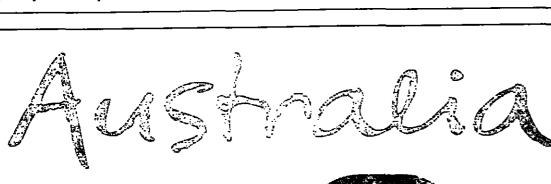
Light and Electricity: Play with lenses, lights and lasers. Today to June I, 10am-6pm. Adults E5.85, children £2.95. Emergency Services: Includes helicopter flights and rescue recreation scenes. May 25-26. 10am-6pm. Adults £2, children ELB Royal Air Force Museum,

Grahame Park Way, London NW9 (0181-200 1763).

Backward Somersault: Can you do one while drinking a glass of water on your fore-head and plucking the ukelele? Tomas Kubinek, master of the impossible". will demonstrate. May 26, Hans and 2pm. Adults £5. 👸 Purcell Room, Belvedere Road London SEI (0)71-960 4242).

Farm Animal Weekend: Watch rare breeds such as Gloucester Old Spot pigs and their litters. Today, tomorrow midday-5pm. Also open during the week. Adults £3.20, children £1.20. Farmland Museum, Denny

Abbey, Ely Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire







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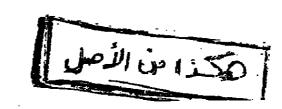
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everything from glass blowing to duelling, close encounters with wolves and cheese-rolling contests



Tudor Times: Recreation of Tudor life. Today to May 26. llam-opm. Mingle with volunteers in costume who will stick to their roles. Adults £7.50, children ES. (5)
Kentwell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk (01787 3102Ď7).

CLEAST MIDERAIDS VI

Give Granny the Wheel: Gokarts, grass carts and quad bikes; tuition provided. May 25-26, iQam until dusk. Adults E6, children E3. Manby Showground, Manby, near Louth, Lincolnshire (01775 640737).

How do they do that?: Watch a pair of working steam engines built in 1825 to haul wagons up the steep Cromford and High Peak Railway. Also quarry site and fossils. Today to May 26 and other selected

days through the year, from 10.30am. Adults 70p, children

Middleton Top Engine House, Rise End, Wirksworth-Derbyshire (01629 823204).

Fun of the Fair: Punch and Judy, vintage fairground, old cars and play area at the Derbyshire Steam Fair. Today to May 26, 10am-6pm. 8 Hartington Moor showground, Ashbourne, Derbys (01663 732750).

Thomas the Tank Engine: A chance to meet the Fat Controller and Oswald, another alking engine. Today to June 1, 10.45am-4.15pm. Adult and two children, £7.95. Midland Railway Centre. Butterley Station. Ripley, Derbys (01773 747674). Steam Train Enthusiasts:

Make tracks to Rutland

and learn about trees with an expert. May 26, 1-4pm. Adults and children £5.50. Westonbirt Arboretum, Forest Enterprise, Westonbirt,

NORTH WEST

Morris Dancing: Plus story telling, craft workshop and a chance to join in the dancing for all the family at the Chester Folk Festival Today, tomorrow, 8am until evening. Admission free. Extra charge for

concerts. **(5)** The Morris Dancer, Chester Road, Kelsal (01244 320424).

NORTH

Close Encounters with Weird and Wonderful Creatures: This is the title of a two-mile walk for accompanied overeights to examine a Cumbrian pond. Wear wellies. Part of various events, including a junior tug of war, at the Coniston Water Festival. Today to June 1. Adults £2.50,

Meet at Coniston Tourist Centre, Ruskin Road, Coniston, Cumbria (015394 41707/41533).

Adults £8.95, children £5.40. Animal Day: Includes 6am dawn chorus stroll tomorrow with an RSPB warden to identify birds. Adults £2.50, children £1.50. Meet at Haweswater, Naddle Bridge. Also the Brockhole Sett (club for juniors) is holding T-shirt printing workshops, a minibeast safari and a "Making Friends with the Earth" session tomorrow. Other events during half-term. Disabled, telephone first. Brockhole Lake District National Park Centre,

Windermere, Cumbria (015394 46601). Take your own glider: And join in the Slope Open Day model gliding rally or go and watch. May 25-26 from 11am.

Catch the Cheese: Cheese rolling contest where large pieces are rolled down a hill; you stand at the bottom to catch them. May 26, 6pm. Admission free. (5)
Coopers Hill, Brockworth,

Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm.

Street Theatre: Plus dancing

and crafts. Today to May 26,

10.30am-5.30pm. Admission

Ludlow Castle Ruin, Castle

Square, Ludlow, Shropshire

Cry Wolf: Learn about the

behaviour of American Tim-

ber wolves and see them at

close quarters at this Wolf

Weekend. May 25-26, 1.30am-

6pm. Also see goats, sheep

and lambs and leopard and

tiger cubs being bottle-fed, Adults £2.95, children £1.60.

Sheaf House Farm, Draycote

Sleepy Hollow Farm Park,

Road, Blockley, Gloves

(01386 701264).

Warwick Castle, Warwick

(0.1926 406600).

(01588 650307).

4256731. Tree Gazing: Forest walk during which you stop, look

Gloucestershire (01452

Admission free. (a) Castle Inn Hotel. Bassenthwaite, Cumbria (016973 51822).

Animal Magic Find out which particular animals live in our homes in this exhibition on how we love and loathe certain creatures. Ends May 31, but museum open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £1.95, children £1. 6 Hancock Museum, Barras

Breige, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-222 7418).

Carnival: With procession, funfair and sideshows, May 24. Admission free. Barnard Castle Meet, Barnard Castle. Durham (01833 638836).

Street Theatre: Children's village with things to do, pag-eants etc at the North Shields Fishquay Festival. Today to May 26, 10am-9pm. Admission free. 🗟 Various venues, North Shields (0191-200 5157).

Sheep Shearing: And tractor rides, friendly animals. May 25-26. Also open daily for tractor rides and animal feeding. 10.30am-5pm. (Closed Saturdays.) Adults £3, children E2, family ticket E8. Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester, Co Durham (01388 730300).

Mr Topper's Clown Show: Bouncy castle, roundabouts, show jumping, stunt displays and parachutes at the Northumberland Country Show. May 26, 9am-6pm. Adults £5, children under 16 free. Tynedale Park, Corbridge, Northumberland (O1434 344443).

NORTH EAST

Children's Festival: With treasure hunt, £1,000-worth of prizes, circus workshops and instrument-making etc. To June 1. Many events free. 🗟 Venues around Barnsley, South Yorks (01226 774468).

Open Farm Day: Watch hand and machine sheep shearing. a working commill, bread baking, Punch and Judy; children's rides available. May 25-26, Ham-Ipm. Adults £1-50.

children 75p. 5 Worsbrough Country Park, Park Road, Worsbrough Bridge, South Yorkshire (01226 774527).

Thomas the Tank Engine: This time the popular character is giving away gifts at Embsay steam railway; there will also be a children's entertainer. May 24-26, 10am-4pm.
Adults and children £3.50.
Includes gift. S
Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, Embsay Station, Embsay, North Yorkshire (01756 794727).

Children's Garden Ouiz: For budding horticulturists. Also a model village and play-ground. May 24-30. 10am-4pm. Adults E3.40, children

Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate (01423 565418).

Scarborough Fayre: With street entertainers, morris dancers, marching bands and sideshows. Today to June 22. Admission free. 🖏 Scarborough streets. North Yorks. (01723 369151).

Fon Day Out: With Punch and Judy, bouncy castle and children's games. Tomorrow from 12.30pm. Adults £3.80, children £1.90, family ticket

to D Ryedale Centre Spring Fair, Nunnington Hall, Nunnington, North Yorks (01439 748283).

Magical May Festival: For young and old. Baffling performances by top magi-cians. May 25-26, llam-5pm. Adults £3.95, children £2.50. Elsham Hall Country and Wildlife Park, Elsham, South Humberside (01652 688698).

Open Mill Day: At the last working postmill in the north of England. May 26, 2-5pm. Adults El, children 50p. (5) Wrawby Windmill, Mill Lane, Wrawby, South Humberside (01652 653699).

Bouncy Castle: Plus steam trains, trolley-bus rides etc at the Whit Gala Day. May 26 from Ham. Adults £3.50, children £1.50, families £9. (5) Sandtoft Transport Centre, Bellon Road, Sandtoft, South Yorkshire (01302 364330).

WALES

Under-16 Disco: Plus sports days, kaleidoscope discovery workshop, under-12s talent show, pirate play and more at the Milford Haven Festival of Fun. Location varies according event. Today to June 1. Most events free. S Various venues, Milford Haven, Dyfed (01646 692505).

Rumpelstiltskin: A name never forgotten in this exciting pupper show. May 30-31, 2pm and 7pm. (5)
Torch Theatre, Milford Haven (01646 694192).

Bring Your Own Teddy Bear: To the Rupert Bear Family Day and enter the best-dressed bear competition in the Rupert Bear and Trusty the Hedgehog Family Day. Tackle a quiz with prizes and enjoy a magic show. May 28, 10am-5pm. Adults £2.60, children £1.30, family ticket

£6.50. 5 Colby Woodland Garden, Stepaside, Pembrokeshire (01834 811885).

SCOTLAND

Scottish International Children's Festival: Children's theatre, music, dance, magic and puppet shows. Today, 9.30am-5pm; tomorrow, llam-4.30pm. Inverleigh Park, Edinburgh (0131-553 7700).

The Singing Kettle: The busy road show. Come dressed as a traffic warden, police or lollipop person. Today, Ilam and 2pm. Adults and children MacRobert Arts Centre, University of Stirling (01786 461081).

Pan for Gold: Enter a treasure hunt and see how the experts do it at the British Gold Parning Champion-ships. Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.50. Wanlockhead Lead Mining Museum, Dumfriesshire (01659 74387).

Theme Park: Claims to be a big. scary, wet, tall, fast experience. Open every day, llam-10pm. Admission free but each ride has own charge. Strathclyde Country Park. Motherwell, Lanarkshire (01698 333999).

Handle an Animal: Choice of animal "will depend on the day" but wildlife inhabitants include bears, Scottish wildcats, wolves, lynxes and golden eagles. Today to May 26, but the centre is also open daily, 10am-4.30pm. Adults £1.50 children £1.05. Camperdown Wildlife Centre. Coupar Angus Road, Dundee (01382 432689).

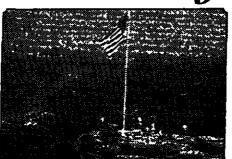
NORTHERN IRELAND

Gingerbread Fun Day: With story telling, face painting, sky diving and puppets. Today, llam-4pm. Free. The Annadale Embankment, . near the Botanic Gardens. Belfast (01232 231417).

Funzone: Go-karting, It's A Knockout, hot-air ballooning. bands and merry-making. Also appearance by one of the Gladiators. May 31. 10am-5pm. Adult £6, children £4. S Kings Hall, Balmoral, Belfast



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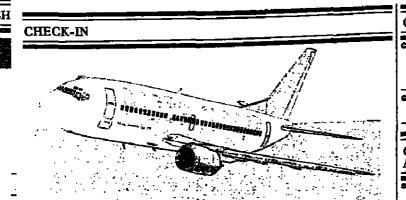


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travel · 23



City break: Fine food, tempting shops and a date with sporting heroes in surprisingly affordable Lausanne

Fun in Olympic portions

ters of the Olympic movement to be at home with superlatives, and to know all about the fastest, the highest, the strongest and the best. But it stall comes as something of a surprise to be told that hidden in a back street of Lausanne, there is a secret known only to the locals - that here you can get the best pasta in the world.

If you are hicky enough to find this well-hidden restaurant, you are swept into a scene far removed from the postcard preconceptions of well-ordered, slightly boxing world that is Switzerland. The tables are simple. The decor is spartan: And the patron of the Cafe de l'Avenir, who is some thing of a cross between John McCririck and Basil Fawity, steps in to take control of your meal. He has no truck with menus, he talks to you and brings you what he believes will delight you. He knows exactly what he is doing and, it's true, it probably is the best pasts in the world.

The lakeside city of Lan-perous yet peaceful city, flow-same, perched on the side of a er-filled and elegant. What mountain, is full of such surprises, and when you visit it you rapidly learn not to believe everything you read about Switzerland One myth that is soon demolished is that it is impossible to wine, dine or

enjoy yourself chemply.

In Switzerland these days you can get as mirch for yourself money as in most computer in the survey before here. Survey with the portest many with the portest many surveys to the survey before here. with the podad and was reflected paths along the crystal clear against the Swiss is applicant; lake in either direction from was a year ago, it is suddenly. Ouchy, Lausanne's delightful and surprisingly allordable, waterfront area. The views are Even shopping to be marked to be called the control of the c Even shopping for factoristic breathtaking — if it's clear you clothes turned out to be easier can see the mountains all the



FACT FILE

Time Off (0990.846.3633) offers two night breaks in Laosanne at the Mirabeau Hotel (00 41 213 320 6231), from £312 per person. The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recomm Hotel du Lac, by Anita

Brookner (Penguin, £6,99); Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley (OUP, £3,99).

on the credit card than feared.

Lust half an hour by train along the lakeside from Geneva: Lausanne is a prosmakes it-great for a few days break is that within a compact area you have Europe's finest lake with its magnificent waterfront, the mountains with their foothills richly pine-forested, and a city that is pretty,

charming and cosmopolitan A must for anyone visiting Lausanne is a pair of comfortable shoes. The city and its surroundings are made for walking. There are marvellous



way around the lake, with vineyards nestling on the foothills as far as the eye can see.

Many of the best walks are marked, with signposts giving not only the direction and distance, but also the time you can expect to take at a pleasur-Walking in the city itself, too, is a delight, because there is a maze of traffic-free streets.

Don't expect them to be flat though. Everywhere in Lausame seems to be built on the side of a mountain, but if the gradient becomes too much you can always take a bus, a tram or the Metro. Switzerland's public transport is legendary, with trains, boats, buses and mountain railways not only running on time, but to timetables cleverly synchronised with one another.

are lovely to stroll around and, as you look over the rooftops, Lausanne is safe.

you catch great views of the lake and the mountains. The oldest and steepest part, La Cité, climbs giddily around the cathedral. There is a maze of steps and narrow streets that end abruptly at alarming terraces, where the ground drops away beneath your feet. The cathedral, which

has an unrivalled rose window, was begun in 1175 and took a century to finish. If you are there after dusk you can hear a night-watchman crying that all's well as each hour passes. Every night, between 10pm and 2am, the guet de la nuit figure straight out of the Middle Ages - climbs the

steps to the top of the cathedral tower to tell the citizens that

When the steep steps and the cobbles have left you foot weary, you can take refuge in a tavern, a tearoom or one of Lausanne's 16 museums. They are astonishingly diverse: photography at the Musée de L'Elysée, contemporary art at the Asher Edelmann Foundation, and great paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Hermitage Foundation.

Lausanne, which is home to the International Olympic Committee, opened its Olympic Museum in 1993, to bring together a wealth of material from the ancient and modern Games. Alongside treasures from ancient Games, loaned by the British Museum, the Hermitage in St Petersburg

and others, is a mass of modern technology and banks of interactive video screens. Here you can call up any piece of action from past Games that exists on film - and the sports fan can happily spend hours rerunning flickering images of sporting heroes dating back almost a century.

With so many museums to visit, so many walks to enjoy, so many tempting shops and restaurants, the stamina of an Olympic athlete might come in handy for the traveller on a short-stay visit to Lausanne. The biggest surprise of a delightful few days break in the city may be that, despite Switzerland's expensive reputation, what you need is not more money, but more time.

JOHN BRYANT

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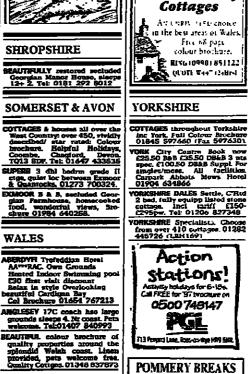
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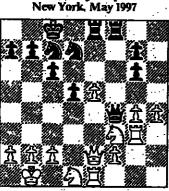
by Raymond Keene

ONE obvious spin-off, much to 22 a3. A human player would be IBM's advantage, of Deep Blue's victory against Kasparov would be to clone the Deep Blue program for use by PCs, and launch it on the world market. With IBM having generated a staggering estimated billion dollars-worth of publicity from the match, and with a confirmed world record of 22 million Internet hits for the final game alone (the Atlanta Olympics, the previous record, attracted a mere 10 million), IBM is uniquely placed to reap a rich commercial harvest from the intellectual capital it has so spectacularly nurtured.

A further boon to both the advancement of science and the international chess community would be for IBM to enter Deep Blue into competitions against other great grandmasters, such as Anand, Karpov, Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Short and Polgar. If, as it is said, IBM is shy of allowing its program to compete openly, then chess players worldwide may consider lobbying the company (website www.chess.ibm.com).

So is Deep Blue now the world's strongest chess player, or was the sensational outcome of the match caused mainly by Kasparov's poor psychological preparation? (Anand has accused Kasparov of treating the machine "like God".) The best way to find out would be for Kasparov to challenge Deep Blue to a 20-game match, with nothing less than his world title at stake. IBM could not refuse such a gauntlet without exposing itself to charges of cowardice. Here is how Kasparov missed his chances in game four

White: Deep Blue Black: Garry Kasparov



pawn ahead and there is activity all over the board, so its self-inflicted weaknesses in the king's field are difficult to exploit.

The parallel to game one, in which Deep Blue wrecked its own king-

side with . . . g5 and . . . g4, is striking. Here, though, White is a

puzzled by this and White's follow-

ing manoeuvres. With this move.

White is preparing to play b4, to chase away any black knight that

Nd7

23 Nc3 Ndc5 25 Qd3 Q17

26 ... Nde5 27 Qe3 Q44 28 bxc6 bxc6 29 Rd1 Kc7 30 Ka1 Not 30 Rxd5 Qxe3+. 30...Qxe3. After the game both 30...Qc4 and 30...Rf7 (with the plan of ...Ref8) were proposed as

31 fxe3 Rf7 32 Rh3. Apparently inexplicable, but the idea is proba-bly to play h5 and h6, in conjunction with Nd4, eliminating all the

32 . . . Ref8 33 Nd4 Rf2 34 Rb1 Rg2 35 Ncs2 Rxg4 36 Nxs6+Nxs6 37 Nd4 Nxd4

It is better to avoid the exchange of knights with 37 ... Nc5. The ending Kasparov strives for looks promising, but White has sufficient resources to hold the draw.

38 extd4 Rxd4 39 Rg1 Rc4 40 Rxg6 Rxc2 41 Rxg7+Kb6 42-Rb3+ Kc5 43 Rxe7 Rf1+ 44 Rb1 Rff2 45 Rb4

White is now threatening Ra5 checkmate, so Black's hand is forced: 45...Rel+. (If 45...Ra2+. 46 Kbl Rxa3 47 Rxa3 Kxb4 48 Rb3 will be enough to draw.)

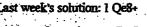
Rcc2 47 Rb4 Rxb1+49 Kxb1 Rh2 51 Rh7 c5 53 e6 Re4 55 a4 46 Rb1 48 Rb1 50 Re7 52 Rc7 54 e7 56 Kc1

Draw agreed. One possible drawing variation is 56 . . . c4 57 a5 c3 58 Kd1 d4 59 a6 d3 60 a7 d2 61 Rb7+.

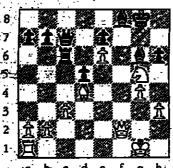
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Starck - Bertholdt, Gera 1962. White's pawn on e6 is a bone in Black's throat, controlling important squares and cutting communications between his forces. How did White make the most of this?

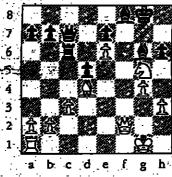
Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington
Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on 't hur day will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-inthe Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.



Last week's winner: P Soper, Tilton-on-the Hill, Leicester.



Last week's solution: 1 Qe8-



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 53, Weekend, The Times. l Pennington Street. London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 28.





"Holmes, I fear that you misunderstood my explanation of the Virgin offer on trains"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Gillian Allison of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

PUNCHLINE

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

YLEM a. A tree

b. Named

c. Primal stuff CONTRAINDICATED

a. A red signal on the railway b. Inavisable c. Contradicted

TRISTILOQUY a. In triplicate

h. A dull speech c. Revised three times

IGNIS FATUUS a. A blank cartridge

b. Foolscap c. A will-o'-the-wisp

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AJ 10953

You lead from the South hand, West follows low and the ten draws an honour from East. When you next play towards dummy. West plays low again. Which card do you

THIS IS a familiar combination:

762

The situation is one covered by the Principle of Restricted Choice. which concerns the inferences the declarer can draw from a defender's play in situations in which his card might be forced, or might be from a holding in which he had a choice of equals. The reasoning is complex, but luckily it leads to a simple practical rule, well expressed in Terence Reese's The Expert Game: you should assume the defender did not have a choice, rather than that he had a choice and exercised it in a particular way.

Thus here you assume that East had no choice but to win with a singleton honour, rather than that he had held king-queen alone and had exercised a choice as to which card to play. As most players know. it is correct to finesse again.

The English international Joe Fawcett showed good appreciation of the principle in playing Seven Spades on the hand shown at the top of the next column. After winning the club Fawcett took two rounds of spades, unblocking to preserve the eight as an entry to dummy. How should he continue? Fawcett saw that he could make

a 13th trick if a red suit broke 3-3; he discards the third card of the suit from his hand on the king of clubs

Love all £88. ¥A1076 **◆**AK53 4 K 2 N E ▲12 **V**Q984 .W **●Q87** S ♣J1094 **⊕**Q87653 +KQJ1097 **♥**K32 • 10 9 6 ÷Α

Contract: Seven Spades by South Lead: jack of clubs

and ruffs the third round to establish the last card as a winner. So he played off both red ace-kings. ending in dummy, and now had to gauge which suit to go for.

Against opponents who would not false card by dropping honours uneccessarily, these were the clues: first. East had played small then jack of hearts, providing a restricted choice inference that he had started with Jx -with QJx he would have had a choice of plays on the second round of the suit. That made a 42 heart split more likely than a 3-3 split.

Secondly, as the queen and jack of diamonds were still outstanding, the only diamond distributions still possible were a) that one player had started with QJxx (a 4-2 break with a doubleton honour having been eliminated) or b) that the diamonds were initially 3-3. That made the 3-3 diamond break a slight favourite. So with both indications pointing the same way. Fawcett successfully played to set up dummy's fourth diamond.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

PLATFORM games are largely passive affairs, but not so BMG's Spider. This is a rare game as it keeps players and observers alike swinging on tenterhooks just like the dangling hero of the title. Something of an arthropod slant on Otto Preminger's The Man with the Golden Arm, as picking up weaponry power-ups can lethally transform all eight spider limbs to

help fend off the many predators. As always, the developers have gone to great pains to build up scenario selling points. It's set in the future with talk of dastardly plots and rival corporations. You are a scientist trapped in the body of an experimental cybernetic Spider. The great thing about Spider is that it is so good any scene-setting is unnecessary.

If your reaction to finding a

spider is: I you scream, 2 want to move house immediately or 3 have an overwhelming desire to stamp on it violently, then think on. After just a few minutes of this game outil see spigers in a nev You will stare in wonder at their dexterity and, in short, you will want to coddle them.

The reason that this game brings out such sweet admiration is that for once the hero is neither slimy,

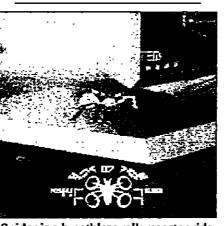
nor a creep. It doesn't show off or take a bow in an irritating routine when beating the enemy, for there is too much to get on with to

survive. The spider walks up walls and spins thread on which to dangle in a bid to make it from A to Z through an exhaustive journey of 20 haz-ardous levels, starting with a scientists' laboratory and a factory. Foes conspire to set you spiralling to the floor and ose a life. Other spiders. flying bees and bats are among those who will do it to you unless you to do it to them first. The routes are equally precarious as you leap from dangling crates or between moving escalators.

Along the way, you can transform the hero from simple eight-legged beastie with weapon until it is all "Arnie Schwarzeneggered" up and reborn as the spider uivalent of *Terminator*. But this is not to say it is a violent game, just devilishly tricky to master. Released now for Sony PlayStation, a Saturn version will follow.

The graphics are breezy and intricate, always keeping the action

by Tim Wapshott



Spider is a breathless rollercoaster ride brought to life by delicious effects

in perfect perspective. They are also in 3D and dynamic, forever spinning on an axis to give each scene twists, turns and welcome depth. It oașier nae. Eat your heart out Indiana Jones. Further bringing Spider to life is a delicious score of effects, the

whole experience set to sounds usually associated with traditional pinball games. Without irritating

musical scores, the bells and whistles triggered by the spider's progress is always music to the ears.

So for that matter is the gun-slinging action you'll find in Outlaws, from LucasArts. A first-person-perspective runaround for wannabe cowboys, it is hugely original, thanks in no small measure to one of the most evocative and mesmerising music contributions yet featured in a computer game.

The seamless score is a fine send-up of those which ripple Italian director Sergio Leone's stream of spaghetti westerns which littered the Sixties and Seventies — hearing this pastiche score enters the psyche and you actually think you are walking two inches taller

you bound through swingdoors. Creeping cautiously around stables and outhouses, you pick off the meanest men you'll ever meet check shirts around farmyards and hay lofts. you must find keys to move on to new levels where you will encounter new gun-totting enemies. It's difficult not to immediately imagine that you actually are a young

Clint Eastwood or, in my case, Benny Hill's creation Ernie, the Fastest Milkman in the West.

Admittedly, even though this game comes on two CD-Roms for Windows 95, it is not a patch on the slickest engines of the genre, such as Quake. However, there is much to be said for not spending another 25 hours running around dank corridors blasting mean monsters.

Instead, here you can warm yourself up with a day of running around in the sunshine. If you've time on your hands after plucking off your human foes, you can even run around the yards meeting cows or horses or frightening hens. If you've had a particularly bad day at the office, you can also shoot up the hens.

Weapons are picked up along the way and include pistols, rifles, 10-guage shotguns and, meanest of all, 12-guage sawn-off shotguns.

This week's Top Tip comes from Vickers of Norwood, south London: "Experience the latest in D virtua buying a PC. Simply paint your walls and furniture lurid colours and persuade a friend to move jerkily around the room in a costume made from cardboard

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3411: Chequered Flag by The Tall'n

4 Feeble through exhaustion

5 Tending to cry (7)

8 Appear (4)

17 Odd coins (6)

21 Dumb (4)

13 Sluggishness (8)

6 Wild extremists (7.6)

7 Scream; a Shetland L (4)

15 Aircraft-engine cover (7)

20 An inventor, power unit (4)

No 1102 ACROSS -- -DOWN

1 Robust (8) I Construct: the acquisitive 2 Easily outperform (5.5.3)

on it (4) (Do sum) in one's head (8) 9 Uttered: part of wheel (5) 10 Insincere talk: toilet article (7)

11 Badly groomed (?) 12 Destiny (4) 14 Llama-like animal, its wool (6) 16 Hackneyed phrase (6) 18 (Tea) spoil; wait amniously (4)

19 Bronfê vîllage (7) 22 Idealistic [7] 23 Singing voice, drift, mean-

24 Crude mock-ups (of person) (8) 25 Disobey (4)

SOLUTION TO NO HOL ACROSS: 1 See the light 8 Round 9 Chalice 10 Pair 11 Dead heat 11 Cleric 14 Curfew 17 Negligee 19 Fray 22 Profane 23 Krook 24 Tetrahedron

DOWN: 1 Strip 2 Erudite 3 Hide 4 Lackey 5 Grandeur 6 Trice. 7 Bestow 12 Vigilant 13 Canopy 15 Fervour 16 Seneca 18 Group 20 Yukon 21 Skye

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and the second second of the s

All lights overlap. Down lights consist of a number of answers chied in order. Circuit answers are all entered in the same way: 11 of these are related - definitions in their clues suggest a single word that describes all 11 answers. Solvers should draw lines between the centres of ten of these answers to form a famous abbreviation and shade in the 11th (a name associated with the abbreviation from its inception 90 years ago.)

DOWN

Fox perhaps cages bird in for a long time. Chinese measure in rare healthy laxative. I'm ejected by a Pakistani official at a pre-match dance. ies animal's intake of vegetables. Luminous discharge from the star Capella. Extraordinary increase of African natives.

Bird call on catching it with certainty. In covered docks one strikes. Can Morocco stand ceremonies? Vokcano erupted in W. Indies last year. A set of three measures hard to follow. Maiden takes over from Henry Seventh in clownish

nolitical philosophy. Provider of insulation left out earth protection. US in truth accepts nothing square as national emblem. American canvasser is yellow after outbreak of colitis. Some from Malibu organise return to South American

Old coin accepted in the inner room.

Australia has not Spenser's collections of literary anecdotes.

Wind power is replaced by electric current as army unit

Sensitive layers girl included in research. Anoints outside when organ stops. Rocket failure recurs, restricting independence. Game hunter loses gun. Barrow of old may seed. Denies before God taking from turncoats.

Extracts an expression of contempt.

THIRD

Swimming costume acting as outer garment.

Submerged in a river, muse What can oxygenate blood?

One finishes an occasional piece of work with a thousand Refrains from giving Japanese title to gunmen Governor receives pounds as currency in exchange for five

Bank rate very little short of that expected originally by writer(s). After sickness Turkish commander is giddy. People desert county - fashion changes direction. An IRA club turned to old instruments of torture.

Brownies perhaps reverted to fashionable mushroom (hyphenated) Thought replaces love with a great number.

Getting older keeps nothing in motion. Show anger on hearing of dear rental charge. The bard's roams with wandering actors. Skipping, even to harp or bass, produces a deep rhythmic

Month in which sun turns on its axis. Desire eagerly false praise. Is shortly to publish 'Emblems of Mutability'

One tells of old celestial spheres.

Deflect German weapon.

Without a penny change in Leeds store. Let oneself down in not quite having enough strength to catch whale. How William meant to bar writer's adaptation lacking his

Rural game associated with fivepenny or ninepenny discs. Himalayan people of Alpine origin. A corner's exploded, eliminating English space station.

Controls imposed by Bank of England on distribution sector Prophetic, but not describing God by sight. Puts in possession of property that is covered by local tax

Homer estimated exterior parts of a machine. Deems partnership to be central to mental attitudes. Middle East millions given back to the upper crust.

ECTORLALPLY EORLITRIATOMIC CABIRIDBANANA INHDIAKERES ING BUABENAGSN LIFA ADDFATEDDAPO ONAGRAHBREVET TELEPATHOWIRE A D O E U E S T I O N E S

PARTY

Solution to No 3408: Rs by Glow Worm

The phrase is proportional representation, giving an alphabet code from P=A to N=Z. The letters of the alphabet are encoded above, from top left to bottom right, as follows:

ELPOTTREINNRIANOATPRPOROES

SLOCUWBNHTJMXKZIVGDPAYFEQR

The winner is Andrew Blows of Cambridge.

The five runners up are: M. Wilson and C. Taggart of Cardiff; M. Harington of Warminster, Wilts: John Pratt of Tiptree. Essex: Colin Coates of Chaddesden, Derby, I. Hall of Worksop, Notts.

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3411

in association with Waterstone's NAME.

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3411, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, June 5.



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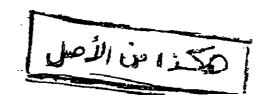
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How to pack a people mover to the limit Page 3



Ticket offer for a quick drac



SATURDAY MAY 24 1997

Eve-Ann Prentice discovers the problems of navigating for a rally driver skidding towards a hairpin bend at 90mph



Hall and Prentice prepare to set off: "In crutch-drooping fireproof overalls, I looked like Andy Pandy on a bad day . . . there were twinges when I learnt that you must write your blood group clearly on your overalls or helmet"

Hang on, are we still in Wales?

hurtling noisily and skiddingly at around driver to turn right.

and navigator in the Mid-Wales Stages historic rally, he needs me to tell him what lies ahead as we career at literally breakneck speed along tracks which I would hesitate to negotiate at anything above second gear.

the world outside as it bucks and weaves in a blur of brown and green. My life doesn't flash before my eyes, but the forests of Powys do.

We are travelling so fast that before I have blinked, dumbstruck, at the treachery which makes a right-hand hairpin on the map transform itself into a left-hand bend in real life. Hall has led his 1965 TR4 a merry little mud dance round the right comer liked got us into.

This is my first attempt at rallying, and muld well have been my last were it not for Hall's patience, skill and experience. I wouldn't bave blamed him for pitching me out and blackening my name forever in the rally fraternity. Even though he was given

confusing wrong or even none of the information normally. forthcoming from a rally codriver, we end up fifth overall and first in class. I say "we". but the triumph (and the Triumph) was all his — espe-cially considering that his navigational handicap was compounded by a poncture on a high-speed off-road section is it like?

and a contract out that he is two sections. An over-event was not lessened by the a high-speed off-road section enthusiastic rev limiter also caused him it few anxious in Newtown, who arrived moments as the engine died unaccustomedly early to cook inauspiciously on three or four our pre-tally breakfast. Hear the nearest tenth of a mile occasions until one of our twoman service team diagnosed of a mega fry-up emanating small nurning off to a forest

'Are you the reporter?' he asked in beguilingly lilting Welsh tones,

then collapsed in uncontrollable laughter at the apparent thought

This may sound like a string Then, horror of horrors. The hairpin transpires to turn left not right. I stare in disbelief at these cars to appreciate how the hieroglyphics on my lap nobust they are Parts are made as light in weight as such extremes of stopping, speeding and starting that it seems a miracle they survive

hammering.
The 6ft 4in Hall, who restores and services Triumph cars through his company TR Enterprises. Lased at Blid-worth in Mounighamshire, has been entering historic rallies for the past five years. Before that he used to go circuit rasing in a Pengeot and says he like won "everything in the TR world that there is to win". His father, Ron, who is a partner in the firm, faithfully follows his son round the country and tends to the

Tens of thousands of people take part in rallies in Britain every year, 70 per cent of them in local events where competi-tion licences are not required. Five thousand people hold competition licences and two million turn out to watch the RAC rally. So if you are among the growing band of people interested in the sport but have not yet tried it, what

friendly chef at the Bell Hotel

Off-road navigating is a nightmare to the uninitiated and co-drivers spend years mastering it

of a total newcomer to rallying on the cusp of imminent terror

the fault and disconnected the from the kitchen, I poked my relevant wite. head round the door and asked if it was possible to have a boiled egg.
"Are you the reporter?" he
asked in beguilingly lilting
Welsh tones. When his suspicions were confirmed, he

threw his head back in an alarmingly gleeful manner, then collapsed in uncontrollable laughter at the apparent the first mile of off-road thought of a total newcomer to rallying on the cusp of imminent terror. His merriment may have been sharpened by the sight of me dressed in such crutch-drooping fireproof overalls, borrowed from Ron Hall, that I looked like Andy Pandy on a bad day.

> of view, though, rallyof view, though, rally-ing is not half as territying as you terrifying as you might think, but requires far more intense concentration than you may imagine. Navigating the road sections, where drivers must obey the Highway Code, is relatively straightforward once you have mastered the art of measuring the distance between given landmarks or road turnings. and not by using a conventionai road map. You must also take charge of all-important time-cards, which are marked

rom a co-driver's point

and checked by a myriad marshals en route. There is an odometer the size of a taxi meter on the codriver's side in rally cars and the guide to the course which you are given on the eve of a rally tells you the distance to

which you must take. There are also road signs, both in the route guide and of course on the road itself to help. Off-road navigating, how

ver is a nightmare to the ated, and most co-drivers spend years perfecting their art. Rowan Prentice — no relation and a paragon of generosity when it came to giving help and advice to a novice - came first as codriver in last year's Mid-Wales historic rally and overall third last weekend in a Porsche 911 driven by Dave Preece. "He was my co-driver at a rally in Finland," says Hall, "and even though neither of us had ever seen the course before, he predicted every bend in the road, every dip, it was uncanny. He is one of the best, but it takes years to

Off-road navigating is so testing because of the speed -often touching 80-100mph the lack of road signs, and the bewildering multiplicity of twists and turns, dips and hollows on forest tracks, most of which don't even merit a mention on a sketch you are given of the off-road sections. You are also given distances between key points, but it is very difficult as a learner to

keep track. Wales has the reputation of being the home of rallying. because its large tracts of forest, hills and mountains make it ideal terrain for offroad sections. While modern rallying is said to have its fair share of bitchiness, historic rallies are said to be havens of friendliness. And don't be deceived by the term "historic"

highly tuned thoroughbreds. They certainly keep a wel-come in the hillsides at New-town and District Automobile Club, which organised last weekend's Mid-Wales event. Everyone was at pains to explain to the eager but ignorant newcomer the perplexities of noise tests and scrutineering whereby officials check out the cars before

they are allowed to take part. "Some youngsters can't afford the fireproof suits, so one of them buys one and others borrow it just for the scrutineering," one official said. "Short of taking them by the scruff of the neck and checking their label afterwards, there's not a lot we can do."

While awaiting our own going over in the scrutineer's shed. Stephen Hall ponders the recklessness of some rallyentrants who fail to put roll bars in all the appropriate places on their cars. You don't have to have them all," he says. "But anyone who doesn't needs his brains looking at "a phrase which conjures visions of heads wrapped round trees in my pre-rally nervousness.

Actually, I was far more Continued on page 2



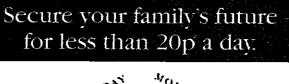
Tens of thousands of people take part in rallies every year, 70 per cent in local events

■ TODAY Car 97 ofa unique opportunity to become co-drivers for a day to stars of the rally world. They will ride with Andrea Hall, Jane Gunningham and Jan Eaton on the tough rally stage, at the Goodwood Festival of tails are on Page 2. THE rally stage is part of the biggest and best Festival of Speed yet. Among a spectacular array of historic cars and legendary drivers. Stirling Moss and Tony Brooks will drive 1950s Vanwalis. There is an off-road course, a Brooklands Paddock and a display to mark Ferrari's 50th birthday sponsored by The Times Box office: 01243-787766.



On the starting grid, above, and the Vauxhall Nova GTE of Andrew Hockridge and Paul Williams, both from Rhyl, after it missed hitting a tree by an inch







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Flooding can catch us out, yet there are large numbers of drivers who plough through water as if taking part in the Cowes-Torbay powerboat race

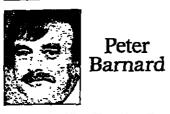
Dangerous when wet, remember

ing George III is sup-posed to have said that the English summer consists of three fine days and a thunderstorm, but nearly all of our nooks and crannies have discovered this month that he understated the thunderstorms, even if he was not far adrift on the fine days.

One evening this week, on a trunk road in the West Country. my car started performing like a speedboat, throwing out a great bow wave as I travelled for some three miles in what must have been close to four inches of water. Hang on, I had better revise that thought: my car would have behaved like a speedboat had l been driving like some people amound me.

Before you accuse me of being

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



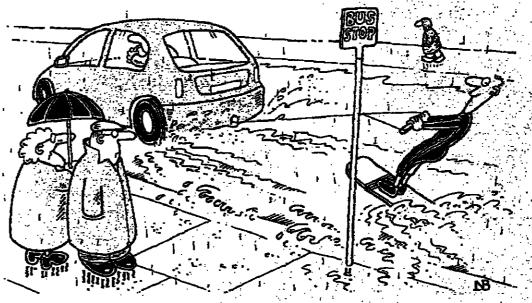
clear that I drive slowly in such conditions out of a desire for selfpreservation and, yes, a degree of consideration for others. So what on earth are some of the twerps I have seen and heard about this

week playing at?

a village in such a way that the resultant wall of water swept a woman and her toddler off their feet and dumped them in a shop doorway, mercifully unhurt.

That driver did not get his due desserts but another, elsewhere, did. This one soaked two police officers who had gone to the aid of a stranded motorist. The road in question was flooded for nearly a mile, yet still the driver was travelling at more than 50mph.

We have all been in situations where unexpected and very localised flooding catches us out, and it is particularly difficult to avoid these nools at night. Recent downpours have not been in that category, yet there are large numbers of drivers who plough through water as if taking part in the Cowes-Torbay powerboat race.



During my own aforementioned drive through the floods, I was reduced to about 25mph by a combination of the water underneath me and hailstones the size of pebbles that were restricting my forward view. This speed was not good enough for a chap behind, who overtook and sent a wave of

water crashing against the side of my car. As he pulled in front, he made an exaggerated show of raising his left wrist. Oh I see, the time. He had to drive like an idiot because he was in a hurry. A mile down the road I had the satisfaction of seeing his car parked on the verge, the driver gazing thoughtfully at his bonnet. I expect he was wondering whether to call the AA or the RNLI.

I find it extraordinary that in a country on the same latitude as Labrador we appear not to know how to drive in bad weather. But the answer to this puzzle lies in our friend's gesture towards his watch.

There is plenty of research showing that with the coming of motorways, we have a fixed idea asto how long a journey should take. Delays caused by weather, accidents or whatever do not alter that perception: we merely increase speed to compensate for the delay.

Most journeys we make we have undertaken before. Each has acquired an optimum time, which is to say, the quickest time we have ever taken. Therefore a journey we did once in two hours late at night on a weekday becomes, by hook or by crook, a two-hour journey, even if we make it on the evening before the start of a Bank Holiday weekend. If you are spending this Bank Holiday weekend away, you and I know that the journey home. will take longer than we think

Which in turn means that if we arrive home on Monday night at the time we hoped to arrive somewhere along the way we will have taken a risk, exceeded the speed limit, made a dodgy overtakme manneuvre, run a couple of umber lights or some such.

Well, none of us is perfect, but please, keep the speed down in the wet. One of the most interesting and least believed, of statistics that, in most years, more people drown in cars than in boats.

reduced. M62 East Riding. Carriage

way reduced to one lane both ways between Howden and

North Cave with 50mph limit.

A627 Ashton Road, Bardsley, Greater Mancheste

Temporary lights near Coal

Manchester: Long-term road-works on Lightbowne Road at junction with Greengate and Hollinwood Avenue.

roadworks with two lanes each way between Thomaby-on-

Tees and Billingham. Only one tane on some slip roads.
A19 north of Newcastle,

Tyne & Wear. Reduced to one

Moor Farm roundabout (A189)

iane both ways between

and Killingworth. Mil West Yorkshire. Major

roadworks continue around Leeds junction with lane

closures and speed restric-tions. Expect delays on M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

Glasgow Clyde Street.

Street and Saltmarket. Dundee Coupar Angus

versions in operation.

Road. Contraflow between Road and Harefield Road. A87 Domie, Highland. Closed after a landslip, di-

M9 Newbridge Spur, Edin-burgh, Major roadworks at Newbridge roundabout (M8

M9 Stirling. Maintenance work with the outside lane

both outside and inside lanes

Lanarkshire. Temporary lights on Main Street affecting traffic between Kirkton Park

Tenerdy, Carmarthenshire.

bigh Road, Saint Asaph. A5119 New Brighton, Flintshire. Roadworks with

closed porthbound and

closed southbound.

and Kittoch Street.

A484 Francis Well,

jor roadworks. A525 Denbighshire, Temporary lights on Upper Den-

East Killbride South

• SCOTLAND

A19 North Yorkshire. Major

B6393 Moston, Gre

Pit Lane. .

A deal that customers can bank on

erman car giant BMW is backing a new Rover "bank" to the tune of more than £S billion. Customers do not even have to buy a Rover to cash in, since anyone looking to finance their car through Rover can drive off in cars

built by rival manufacturers. The move, announced in London this week, is the latest stage of the ever-closer working relationship between the motor manufacturers since BMW bought Rover three years ago.

BMW has repeatedly stressed there are no plans for Rover-badged cars simply to become bargain-basement BMWs, and BMW chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder says pre-

Wales in

a blur

of speed

on your overalls or helmet.

And in the five-second

road stage, as the TR4 pawed

at the earth in eager anticipa-

before the corral gate is

polished Welsh slate. I asked

the RAC Motor Sports Associ-

ation what exactly first in class

meant. "Each club can decide

their own classes," said

spokesman Colin Wilson, add-

ing with a deflationary glec:

They could have cars with green wheels and black wind-

screens ... or only those cars

with Times journalists on their

first rally," As it happens, our

class was for ears manufac-

But, in the final analysis,

did the earth move for me? It

certainly did, the only prob-

Iem was keeping track of it for

TO ENTER many

rallies you need a £26

and be a member of a

■ STEPHEN Hall's

historic rallying terms

TR4 is top of the range in

cheapest cars cost £5,000-

spends between £300 and

competition licence

club, which costs

around £28 a year.

and worth around

£40,000, while the

£6,000. Hall usually

£400 restoring his ve-

hicle after every event.

This is in parts alone. since he owns his own

YOU must have a

or more, and lireproof

Iv money for designer

kit according to Hall.

specialist TR

navigation purposes.

tured in 1964.

opened.

٧:

serving the "Englishness" of the badge with individual that the new Rover Corporate

Rover designs is crucial. However, the latest business link is the clearest sign yet that

£600 million a year in Rover to the end of the decade, is

determined to bring Rover

back as a money-making Forty per cent of Rovers sold in Britain are bought by firms as company cars, and it is this

extremely lucrative market

Finance arm has been created Last year Rover sold a total

of 220,000 cars in Britain, around 90,000 of which went to corporate fleets. Convincing even a fraction of those customers to finance their fleets through Rover's new finance arm, rather than rival banking or credit institutions. would go a long way to putting the once ailing UK-based carmaker back in the black.

As well as offering finance to fleer managers who might regularly be in charge of buying as many as 5.000 cars a year. Rover Corporate Finance will also offer a full range of back-up services, incuding fleet maintenance and management, as well as advice dealing with tax and legal problems.

Rover Group chairman Walter Hasselkus, a member of the BMW Board, said: "Rover Corporate Finance will provide a full range of services from contract hire and contract purchase to finance leasing, fleet management and full

"Without the backing of BMW and BMW Finance, it would not have been possible for Rover to offer such a wide range of services at such a

BMW has put up £8bn to boost Rover sales. Vaughan Freeman explains competitive level to the benefit

of the customer. "When BMW acquired Rover in March 1994, there were many synergies in peo-ple's minds, areas where the

ROVER

two companies could work together for mutual benefit. But I think it is true to say that the opportunities we actually have realised have exceeded those expectations.

"I would like to think that in a few years' time the Harvard Business School will use us as ousiness acquisition."

Aiready, closer links between Rover and BMW were saving millions of pounds a year, said Hasselkus, because of the savings possible in greater bulk buying of components and parts. The two firms were also busy sharing ideas with Rover engineers now living and working in Bavaria, and German designers work-ing at Rover's British plants.

He said that while BMW and Rover cars could share unseen bits and pieces under the skin", such as electronic components and gearboxes, thus saving money in buying parts, the individual identities of the two makes would be not just protected but encouraged.

HTRON . 89 between A19 and A1185, north of Middlesbrough at Wolviston, Durham.

- LONDON A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallence Road and Cambridge Heath Road. A306 Hammersmith Bridge, Closed both ways to general traffic for structural

A5 Kilbum High Road. Malane open.

A486 Neasden. Carriageway reduced to two lanes washound for readworks.

A4 South Kensington. Ma-jor roadworks on Gloucest Earls Court or beyond. SOUTH-EAST 1140 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with

contratiow between junc-tions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wyo ombe East). M20 West Malling, Kent. Long-term works for erection of traffic signals on the slip-roads and roundabout, Vari-

ous lane closures. M40 Oxfordshire, Resudac ing work between Watlington and Oxford, Drivers head ing to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use A40 and A418. A3 Guildford, Surrey: Road-works with contratiow at A31 interchange. A31 also

M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and the

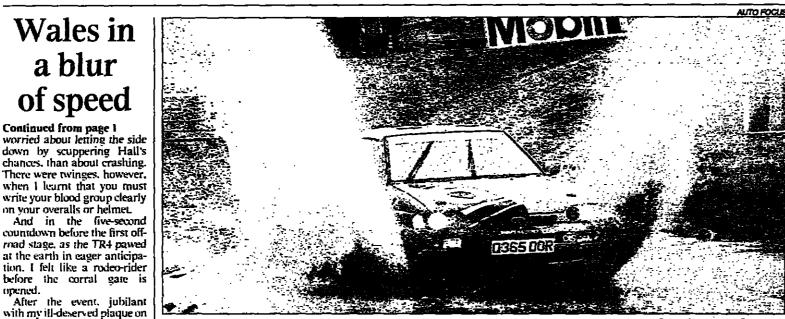
SOUTH-WEST M5 Bristol, Contratiow across Avonmouth Bridge with 50mph limit. Gloucestershire, Temporal lights for roadworks on Old Bath Road. A39 Somerset. Works under way with temporary lights on Quantock Road, Bridgewater

bridge. A500 Stoke on Trent, Asou Store-On-Trent, Staffordshire. Contratiow on The Queensway (D road), with only one lane open each way between Talke and Porthall.

M6 West Midlands. Long-

temporary lights, also closed at times. A449 Monmouthshire. Roadworks between Usk Juno tion and M4 junction 24. A483 Park Road, Builth Wells, Powys, Temporary lights 24 hours a day. A483 Fabian Way, Swan-sea, Lane closures both ways.

near the docks entrance on main dual carriageway into Swarsea from M4.
A472 Pontypool, Torfaen.
Contrallow between Pontymoile and Heron roundabout Lengthy delayesespecially from the A4042



An Escort Cosworth entered by the Ordnance Survey, the latest name among sponsors of the Festival of Speed

Stars rallying to the course

Eve-Ann Prentice looks forward

to Goodwood's Festival of Speed

isit the Festival of Speed at Goodwood next month, and you could end up seeing stars ... the top names in British rallying, that is,

While historic cars of every

description tackle the Tarmac For information about rollies in Britain, write to The FAC Motor Sport: Association, Motor Sports hill climb course. Britain's leading rally drivers will try to House, Riversule Park, Coln-bronk, Slough SL3 Cit 1H. beat the clock over a purposemade loose surface rally stage. Ten official car manufacturers' reams and 20 other major rally competitors will have five attempts at the stage, which involves two laps of a half-mile course outside Molecolm Corner on Saturday and Sunday June 21 and ZZ.

The cream of British rallying will churn up the ground at the Goodwood Rally Sprint. including Alister McRae. younger brother of former World Rally Champion Colin McRae, and Gwyndaf Evans. who won the British Rally Championship for Ford last

Evans has already set about

defending his championship title and proving the pace of the Escort Super Rally Car. Alister McRae, meanwhile, is back after a year's sabbatical, and is spearheading Volkswagen's Sony-supported 1997 championship bid which he

currently leads. The Ladies' class contest will be between four of the toughest women in the sport -Barbera Armstrong, full-time rally instructor Andrea Hall. Junie Eaton, and Jane Gunningham - all with fourwheel drive at their disposal in what is expected to be a fiercely-fought battle of wit. grit and speed. On the Sunday, three female Times readers will act as co-drivers to the

women (see right). Armstrong is in her first season as works driver for Seat after spending several seasons in the Peugeor Challenge rally series and was second female finisher on last year's RAC Rally.

Although teamwork be-



Armstrong, debut for Seat tween driver and co-driver is

usually crucial in rallying, the Goodwood course is so short that the winners of our competition to 20 with the Ladies' Class entrants will provide nothing more than ballast and can afford to enjoy the ride.

Drivers who will let rip and roar their way round the rally course will also include Peugeot works driver and 1996 British Junior Rally Champion. Justin Dale, and Robbie Head and Martin Rowe for

iasts can be confused by the array of classes in the sport and the Goodwood Rally Sprint enters wholeheartedly into this spirit of bewilder ment. There are five classes Formula 2 and Formula 2 Kit cars are based on mass production front-wheel drive saloons with non-turbo engines, with the kit versions endowed with more power and body-

work modifications. Cars in Class N (which stands for normale) are allowed to make only very limited modifications and the class tends to attract fourwheel drive, nurbo-charged performance versions of mass production saloons.

In Group A. power output is restricted to a relatively paltry 300bhp and most cars in this class have sophisticated six-ormore-speed gearboxes, massive brakes, traction control and extensive bodywork modifications.

Open, or O Class, cars are usually seen where the drivers are paying their own way and just about anything goes as long as it is safe for crew and spectators. The last of the five is the Ladies, or L Class.

Even seasoned rally-enthus-

a fast woman

FEMALE readers with an appetite for excitement can win the thrill of riding as co-drivers with three of Britain's top women rally-drivers at the Goodwood Rally

Sprint Fast rides are up for grabs on Sunday, June 22 with Andrea Hall in the fearsome Audi quat-tro S2. Jane Gunningham in her striking Subaru Impreza and Janie Eaton with the surefooted Ford Escort Cosworth. Eve-Ann Prentice of The Times will ride shotgun with works Seat team driver, Barbera Armstrong in her Seat Ibiza Gti.

Although the rally sprint course is only a mile in length, which should take just over a minute to complete, the three women readers of The Times who win our competition will get five runs at it during the day and do their bit in help-ing the drivers compete for the Ladies' Prize. And the beauty of this

contest is there are no maps to read or paper-work to complete. All you have to do is sit tight and enjoy the ride, reassured by the knowledge that all the cars are equipped with full roll cages, rally seats and full harness seat belts.

To win the chance to ride with the best in British rallying, answer the following questions: - What is the name of

the only woman raily driver ever to have won a round of the World Rally 2-What model of car will be used in the Good-

wood Rally Sprint by the

Seat works rally team? Send your answers on a postcard to Rally Competition, Intercom Net-work, 29 The High Street, Marlow, Bucks,

SL7 IAU.

The winners will be the first three correct answers drawn after the closing date of next Saturday, May 31. Normal Times competition rules appiy.



Become

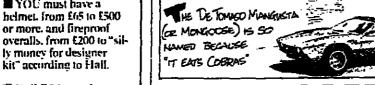
Bridgewater A4 Box Hill, Wiltshire, Temporary lights for water work. • MIDLANDS AND A1 Alconbury, Cambridge-shire. Construction work with contraffow and lane. ciosures. ANYZ near Newmarket, Cambridgeshire Roadworks in Landwade area. A1064 Acle, Norfolk, Terri-porary lights at Acle Way

A50 Stoke-on-Treat. Major construction work at Meir. A41 Wolverhampton, West Midlands. Major works on Biston Road, near Cooper

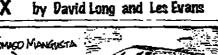
erm roadworks at junction 6 With slip road from Salford Circus to M6 north closed, Diversions via Lichfield Road (A5127)



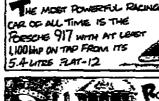
AUTOFAX



UNLESS you already know your blood group, which must be displayed on helmet or overalls, you may have to spend around £20 for a private blood test.



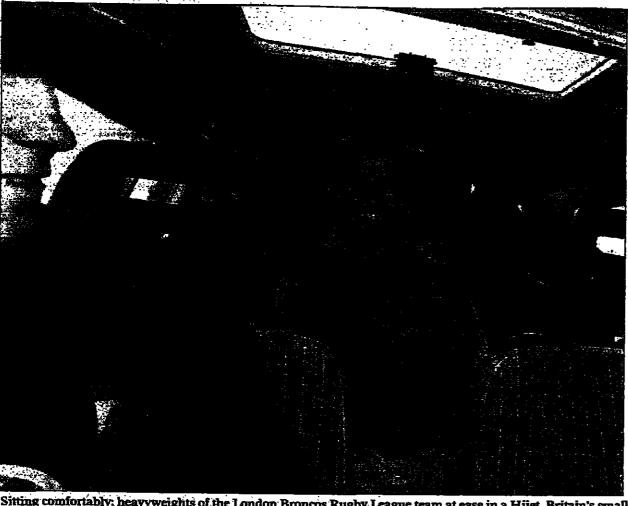




Rais-Roke Berser TO SOLL ITS PHANTOM IV THE PUBLIC



What size people can you actually fit in a people mover? We went to both extremes to check it out





Sitting comfortably: heavyweights of the London Broncos Rugby League team at ease in a Hijet, Britain's smallest people carrier, and seven children — plus attendant adults — in the nine aircraft-style seats of a Ford Tourneo

Room inside for ten Broncos

is controversial advertis-ing claims that it picks up five times more women than a Lamborghini, but I went much better in the Daihatsu Hijet, the smallest people carrier on sale in Britain — I picked up ten members of the London Broncos Rugby League team. 🚁

Five of them, all tailer than the upright vehicle, squeezed: into the front two rows of seats and, with the third one folded down, another five jumped into the back. Even Mick Seaby, the bad boy of the Broncos who gave away two vital penalties at St Heiers a week ago, climber into the front passenger seat withder a murmur of complaint or any discomfort. At off Sins and 21 stone, he did, however, find difficulty in getting into any of the other seats and settled for sitting in the sliding doorway. leading to the middle row

After persuading him down. we were ready for a trial run. with Robbie Beazley, the hooker, and a meagre 13-and-a-half stone, at the wheel and Seaby and fellow giant and record try scorer Scott Roskel standing by to push. Their efforts were not required. Even with this

٠-,٠

Tony Dawe joins the pack in a Daihatsu Hijet

weight aboard and boasting only a 993cc engine, the Hijet pulled away easily. It is billed as a six-seater, but the purpose of our exercise was to show that this little in could cope with plenty of big uns.

Daihatsu argues that many people carriers are used principally for day to day journeys in town and that larger vehicles are unnecessary. Its ri-vals, such as the Renault Espace and Ford Galaxy, might carry one or two more people in greater comfort, but cost several thousand pounds more than the Hijers on the road price of £8.795.

The Hijet seemed to be at its happiest with a heavy load as I had discovered on a wine collection trip to France the day before meeting the Broncos. Heading for Dover empty, the machine swayed unsteadily along the M2 and needed coaxing across the Medway bridge in a rainstorm. In Calais, it rattled and burched

unceremoniously over the railway tracks and cobbles which greet drivers taking the short cut into the town centre. After 20 cases had been loaded, however, the vehicle settled down and returned me to Calais, late as usual, at a comfortable gallop.

Loading the wine — and

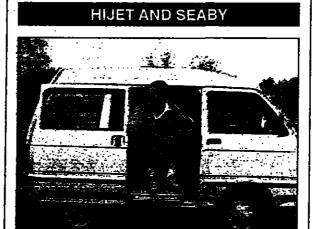
boxes of toys for a school fair on another occasion — was extremely simple. To convert the Hijet from a six-seater to a four simply involved remov-ing the headrests from the back row, unlatching the seats and folding them upright be-

y overall impressions mixed. I enjoyed TYI the excellent vision from the high driving position and found the gearbox smooth and simple. I was irritated however by a petrol gauge that wandered when the tank was between a quarter full and empty, and by radio controls somewhere near my

In London, the narrowness of the Hijet allowed it to reach parts other people carriers could not I nipped into narrow lanes at traffic lights and on two lane roads could squeeze past on the inside of vehicles which had stopped to turn right.

The authorities in London have however done their best to oueer the Hijet's chances in the capital by introducing traffic calming at every oppor-tunity. The Hijet did not like road humps and they had to be treated with great respect at a very slow speed. Road cushions which some councils now favour were impossible.

The vehicle's wheel base was too narrow to pass slowly along the sides of these obstacles, forcing the driver to jolt the passengers on one side up in the air while the others had a smoother ride. After passing a dozen of these obstacles in Nightingale Lane, Balham, South London, all my passengers wanted to get out. Mind you, the Broncos might have preferred to carry the Hijet over the burnes.



Daihatsu Hijet, multi-purpose vehicle Engine: 47bhp. Height: 6ft 1 n. Width: 4ft 7in. Length: 10ft 9in. Weight: 240 stone. Maximum speed: 90 miles an hour. Suspension: MacPherson strut at front, rigid rear axle, double-acting telescopic shock absorbers. Fuel consumption: 37.7mpg in town, 44.1 at constant 56mph. Price: £8,795.

Engine: Immeasurable. Height: 6ft 8in. Width: 4ft 8in (chest size). Length: Not applicable. Weight: 21 stone. Maximum speed: 12 miles an hour. Suspension: Two legs like tree trunks.

Fuel consumption: Large steak and six eggs a day, plus undisclosed number of pints of Fosters.

TOURNEO AND KIDS



Engine: Two-litre petrol producing 115bhp at 5,500rpm driving rear wheels through five-speed manual gearbox. Height: 7ft 4ins. Width: 6ft 6ins. Length: 15ft 4ins. Performance: Top speed 85-90mph, 0-60mph n/a.

Economy: 25-30mpg.

Price: £19,400, Verdicts: Eight-year old Emily Freeman's favoured form of transport is a friendly pony called Drummer Boy, while her six-year-old brother, Ben, prefers his mountain bike. Carly, eight, and her five-year-old sister Sophie Radford, and neighbour Sophie Carney, also eight, prefer highspeed running (aided by a skipping rope where allowed) and cycling, while 10-year-old Charlie Carney grabs a parental piggy-back whenever possible.

... and space for the Seven Dwarfs

The Seven Dwarfs' test might not be a recognised benchmark among manufactur ers obsessed with speed or chic looks, but it should be. For motorists who regularly have to transport large numbers of their own children, their childrens' schoolmates, relatives, cuddly toys, bicycles and luggage, the Dwarfs' test is the single most important factor in choosing a car.

Simply, the vehicle must be able to seat seven youngsters - and an adult or two - safely and comfortably, with enough seat belts to go round and enough space left over to cope with the never-ending trips to school, scout camps, weekend

ily holiday. Few cars, even the longest estates, are up to the challenge. The rash of people movers now on the market can sometimes seat eight or nine, but only if the passengers

leave their luggage behind. There is, though, a little known secret solution to the dilemma, hidden away in the Ford line-up, overshadowed by its ritzier and more expensive Galaxy cousin, an alternative that is bigger, roomier and far better suited to the job in almost every respect.

The bizarrely-named Ford Tourneo is at heart a Transit van, but don't let that put you off. The Transit has been around for more than 30 vears, more than three million have been sold, and it is as robust and honest a vehicle as you will find.

Ford has taken the Transit to the beauty salon and given it the full plastic surgery job to turn it into the Tourneo. There are up to nine aircraft-style seats, carpeting, yards of seat belts, airbags and air-conditioning, and enough luggage space left over to resolve the Seven Dwarfs conundrum.

At the wheel, the Tourneo is much more car than van, because Ford has fitted it with the instruments and gearbox from their Car of the Year Mondeo, so that cup-holders, cubby holes, pencil tray, even a map-cum-clipboard holder,



This is child's play, Vaughan Freeman reports

all feature. The five-speed manual gearbox is matched to a light clutch, although the van-ish long gearstick takes some getting used to. There is an automatic version on the turbodiesel Tourneo.

ower steering and anti-lock braking add to the car-like feel, although the van-derived advantages are obvious. You sit head and shoulders above the traffic, able to see over cars parked too close to junctions and far down the road to where problems might be developing. There are also van-derived drawbacks. The steering wheel feels too big. the turning circle is cumber-some, and the Tourneo was too tall for our local under-

ground car park.

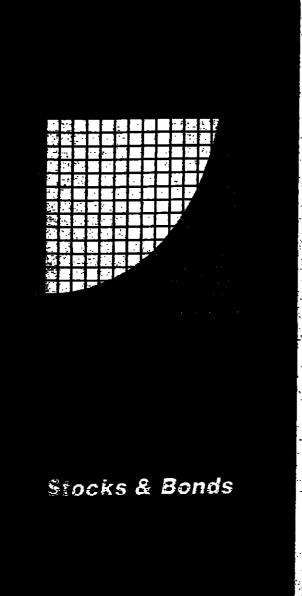
A huge sliding door on the left-hand side is great for rear passengers, and makes it easy getting in and out, even when parked close to another vehi-

door on the right-hand side, for the driver, proved highly irritating for those in the rear. The Tourneo feels big, more van than car, and it takes time to adjust to, even though at 4.6

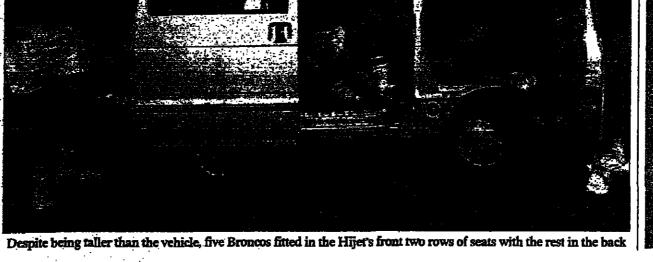
metres it is shorter than a Volvo V90 estate, Vauxhall Omega estate. Tovota Previa or the Ford Galaxy/Seat Alhambra. At motorway speeds road and engine noise, amplified by the box-shaped body. are much louder than from a

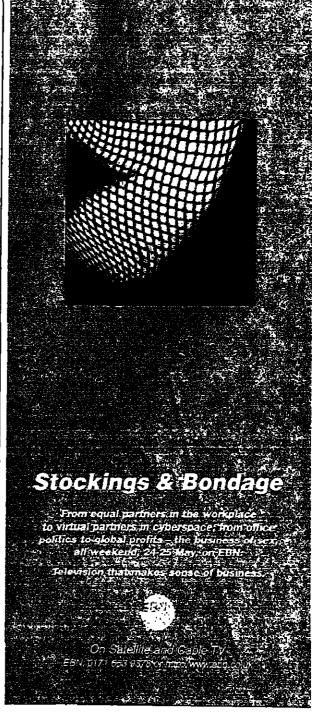
modern saloon. None of which serioulsy undermines the Tourneo's prowess as a people and luggage carrier. Even with all three rows of seats in place. there is plenty of luggage space for bags and/or prams. all made accessible by a barnsize door that lifts up and out of the way. With the rear row of three seats folded down, the luggage space assumes Albert Hall proportions.

Unlike the MPV, the Tourneo is based on three decades of development. Big, honest, capacious, for those fed-up with the frustrations and unfulfilled claims of other people movers, this fancy Transit could be the answer.









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spply, surveillamer devices, gas
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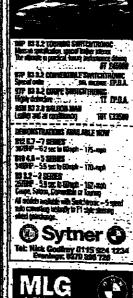


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BMW 750, forging a bond with big business



Poor old Bond misses Aston Martin's latest

Power, performance and British Racing Green paintwork were not enough;

007 will still drive a BMW when he returns to the screen, says Ian Morton

ere is the Aston-Martin that James Bond could have been driving in his next cinematic adventure if the film production company had been more mindful of the Englishness of the 007 tradition. Instead Bond - whose fixed head model some way connection with the DB series rinto the six-figure bracket. A goes back to Sean Connery in

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large BMW saloon. This powerful development. If they had said yes, it of the elegant DB7 would have a would have been on the film been available for the new Bond epic, Tomorrow Mene Dies, due out in December, 18 film-makers Ean Product had not committed thereselves to the German marque. Aston - note, they would have known will launch it this semmer towealthy and discerning cus- But it seems that when the tomers as a performance enhancement.

Behind the new frontal treatment is a muscular 400bhp version of the super-charged 3.2-litte straight-six engine it was developed for competition with a gentlemen's race series in mind just the sort of weekend diversion in which James Bond might indulge between one international crime syndicate

international crime syndicate and the next.

And the car's performance would certainly give him the edge in any charse sequence—rockeing arceleration from 0.60mph in next much more than 4.6 seconds and a top speed of 12 mph. Fast enough to beat the federhosen off anything from himnich.

Output of the standard engine has been boosted by almost one fill by new engine management destronces, larger fuel injectors, high-lift camshaft publics and modified exhaust.

exhaust States suspension and more powerful brakes to Aston Variage specification match the later age formance. Distinctive composite body panels according can be declined it says Aston, the discrets again does not wish to adverse the performance

maprovements - will com-plete the uplift of the already sinewy DB7 to a serious new performance plateau.

Serious motoring money
will be involved too — the exercise is likely to push the standard £82,500 price of the man's car at a man's price -Goldfinger - will drive a so how could the film men remain jamuae?

> British, Racing, Green, paint-work and heard that exhaust ad done the right thir

film company elected to give Pierce Brosnan a just-out BMW Z3 roadster instead of the equally new DB7 in the last 007 saga, Goldeneye, an potion on further association with the German marque was part of the deal.

And when Tomorrow Never Dies hits the screens around

the end of the year, Brosnan will not only be driving a BMW 750 V12 but will also throw a leg over the latest BMW motorcycle, the R1200C Cruiser, a big new chopper-style flat-twin bike due out in September, which BMW believes will be the European answer to Harley-Davidson.

The Bond team's love affair with BMW has grown out of the German company's decision to source the Z3 in South Carolina to give prime service to the sun-drenched and sportscar-crazy US market. Product placement — getting commercial goods displayed

in films - is big business, and

especially important in the US. A department within BMW's American operation is devoted to winning media exposure, admits spokesman Chris Willows. At the time of the Goldeneye

launch in December 1995. reports suggested that a mutual marketing agreement worth

£17 million had been drawn up between BMW and Eon Productions. Eon describes the figure as "grossly inflated", and BMW insists that no cash changed hands.

"There are company rules and regulations, and Rule One is that we do not pay," says Willows. "Rule Two is that we will co-operate only when the character with whom the car is to be associated is a goodie, or at least a likeable rogue.

The Z3 and the Goldeneve film were being launched at the same time, and co-operation fulfilled the needs of both us and the film company. And anyway there has been a big swing in the Bond character today he is a more accessible Bond, a more European Bond.

£19,950 car which was going to be within reach of a large group of buyers. o did Aston make an

In Goldeneve he drove a

approach for a role for the DB7 "gentleman's racer" in Tomorrow Never Dies? "There was some discussion," says Calton, "but there seems to have been a prior commitment. After all, BMW has a manufacturing plant and a large dealer network in the US. Of course, we think it is a pity. For all the cars that have appeared in Bond films — the Mitsubishi sportscar, the underwater Lotus, the Citroën 2CV, even the Aston Vantage on skis - it is the DB5 that people always remember.

But we are making a silver DB5 available this time. We understand that it may be parked strategically in at least one scene '

And was there a third contender? There have been reports that Jaguar made approaches to get Brosnan into the XK8 in "Bond 18", as the next film is known in the business. Jaguar denies this.

"We understand that there was no contest here because an arrangement with BMW for a second film was a foregone conclusion." says Jag-uar's David Crisp. "We heard BMW was disappointed by the small exposure for its Z3 in Goldeneye, and that a runout

into a second film was agreed. "But we are involved in discussions with author Raymond Benson, who has been commissioned by the Fleming estate to write the next Bond book. We have sent him specifications of the XKS and he is considering putting Bond

*Of course it's not automatic that a film script follows the book, but we do hope it is possible that James Bond will



The new DB7 in racing livery, developed for competition with a "gentlemen's race series" in mind — just the sort of weekend diversion in which James Bond might indulge

Mercedes E320 Avantgarde, Brabus version: if you have to ask how much, you can't afford it

A few extras? That'll be £31,000

uy a perfectly good Mercedes E320 Avantgarde with a typical bun-dle of extras for nearly £45,000, then spend another £31,000 with a firm that turns it into a car at which Mercedes itself looks down its corporate nose?

When money is no object and individuality is the objective, it happens. At this level, top dealers and manufacturers are happy to discuss special livery and equip-ment on your next Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin or Daimlet, writes lan Morton.

If you want something special on a Merc, the makers invite you to consult AMG, the engineering and bodywork modifier which they officially embrace, but here comes a maverick alternative, the German-grown firm Brabus, back in Britain after a period of absence, with a base in Kent and six regional centres to bring their services to Merc buyers across the

Mercedes says that any engineering modification invalidates the relevant bit of its warranty, but Brabus undertakes to refill any gaps. And the firm is at pains to Brabus can give your Mercedes-Benz a special individual touch — for a price

deserves. Exterior changes "are aerodynamically designed to enhance the visual appearance of a Mercedes-Benz while being sympathetic to the original design concept", says the blurb. Refinements are created as "an integral

part of the car". The £76,000 E 3.6 conversion of the E320 Avantgarde bears out the claim. Much has happened to the car, but it is no swankerwagen. Salient wheel arches brimfull of dramatic 18-inch alloy wheels lapped in ultra-low profile Dunlop rubber with an 8.5 inch wide footprint look absolutely right. Front and rear spoilers and side skirts discreetly follow natural E-Class lines, fit and finish are impeccable, Teutonic standards are palpably maintained.

The Brabus name alone adorns bootlid and wheels, and "B" emblems replace the triple star front and rear - perhaps that is the touch which really peeves Mercedes. Inside, new rouched accord to the original the respect it leather and an extra touch of

softness in the seat surfaces are entirely fitting.

Conversion of the straight-six 3.2-litre 220bhp unit into a 3.6 delivering 285bhp produces a hefty serving of extra performance, with steep initial lorque and a flatter curve thereafter. In the five-speed automatic test car I did 0-30mph in 2.5 seconds and 0-60 in 5.8, both a long blink less than the E320, while the Brabusquoted maximum of around 160mph is some 20mph higher.

But the urban calm and simmering cruise of the standard product are not impaired. Rather the opposite. My car gentled along the autobahn at 70mph for 2,400rpm, with only the song of the treads for company, yet hauled to 100mph on kickdown within seven seconds, turning the opposition into retreating dots. The engine note never became more than excited even when firing in second gear all the way to the 6,400rpm redline and 65mph, or

The chassis communicated the same message. The modified sus-pension involved little extra husiness at low speeds, even with those broad tyres, and the harder the car was driven, the rounder the ride. It begged to punch through the B-roads, the steering more communicative at higher speeds, the ride less joggy the faster it consumed the bumps, the structure ever solid and level. The more demanding the driver, the more focused and compact the car's behaviour.

espite all this controlled muscularity. overall consumption of 29.3mpg was no heavier than that expected of an E320. and seemingly lighter on a long leisurely run. The 3.6 is just one example of Brabus wizardry. The firm will gently massage a C-Class 1.8 to give 136bhp, for instance, while their mightiest product, the 7.3-litre EVI 2. delivers 582bhp. 0-124mph in 15 seconds and almost 190mph - the fastest four-door saloon in the world. And if you need to know how much, as the saying goes, you will not be able to when exceeding 100mph in third. afford it.

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CARTER YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

An off-roader that faces up to reality

ew owners of fashionable off-roaders venture on to anything more severe than someone else's grass verge, Barely 4 per cent even begin to tax the abilities of their vehicles, according to one survey, and of these only the timest handful ever get stuck into the serious stuff, writes Ian Morton.

Now, at last, one manufacturer is admitting that a product which looks like an off-roader is expected to spend its life on essentially firm and level ground. Henda's official line on its new CRV is "grass and gravel, not mud and snow

CRV is an acronym for Compact Recreational Vehicle, but during the design stage CR actually stock for "comfortable runabout", and this Honda has emerged faithful to the concept. It may be tall and square and have obvious recreational virtues and practical appeal, but its natural habitat is going to be the highway.

Four-wheel drive is provided, for example, but only when needed. In normal conditions the front wheels are powered by the compact and lightweight 2-litre engine, but a new

FORECOURT

LONG, languid and styl-

ish, the Jaguar XJS oozes

traditional English motor-ing values, elegance and refinement, all underwritten

by great performance, writes

The XJS looks expensive,

and parts and servicing

match the image. Despite its

age (launched in 1975, phased

out 20 years later), the XJS.

especially the 5.3-litre man-

ual, is still much desired,

While its size and weight

rule it out as a performance

sports car, its levels of com-fort, with all that leather,

wood and polished chrome, put it in a different league for

stylish driving - provided you can afford the breathtak-

ingly poor fuel consumption.

fast from new, which is good

The XJS also loses value

reports CAP Black Book.

Vaughan Freeman.

ROAD TEST

dual-pump hydraulic system awaits to sense any loss of traction, at which point drive is instantly linked to the rear wheels as well.

Then there is a clever side to the automatic transmission with which the CRV is initially available. It incorporates what Honda calls Grade Logic, a control system which senses the needs of the moment and chooses one of six shift patterns to

hold or change gear accordingly.

Above all, the suspension has double wishbones all round. Forget those live axles and leaf springs with which some notably rugged off-roaders are equipped to bash their way across country. Here is a supple saloon-like system that bears the CRV through the bends in a poised and confident rush while absorbing deep gratings and proud cats' eyes with barely a tremor.

Performance is road-realistic. Floor the throttle and the CRV will make 60mph from rest in about 12 seconds, hold on to show around

Jaguar XJS: elegance in leather, wood and chrome

European distances. An ex-

pensive car, though not all

that fast, which combines a

good image with a sound

reputation for build quality

the car to go for Best buy is

the 1993 K-reg 2.6E estate

with automatic transmission

on low mileage, selling for around £13,500. Avoid any

examples with high mileage.

and the underpowered 2-

The estate in particular is

and endurance.

news for the second-hand

purchaser. Best buy is the

1992 J-reg 4-litre automatic

convertible. Expect to pay

around £20,000 for one with

Avoid all cars from the

early 1980s and any showing

The Audi 100 (1991-1995)

has long been popular with

the ski set for its good looks

and its ability to cope with

lots of luggage and pan-

average milege.

signs of body rust.



Honda CRV: four-wheel drive, but its natural habitat will be the highway

for spirited overtaking, and will carry to a 103mph maximum. Yet it coexists as peacefully as any other 2-litre automatic, and cruising at 70mph involves 3,100rpm and merely con-

versational noise levels. The interior has an intelligent simplicity, with rounded fascia mouldings in two-tone grey, uncomplicated instrumentation and controls (the automatic gearshift is column-mounted), plain but comfort-

6,200rpm in the intermediate gears able fabric seats and near stowage areas which all conspire to create snace rather than fill it.

> But there is plenty of convenience kit, with the LS version having remote central locking, electric windows and door mirrors, twin airbags and RDS stereo radio/cassette. The ES is well worth £1,000 more for its dozen extra goodies including airconditioning and alloy wheels.

Practical features include rear seats that fold forwards to provide

nearly 24 cu ft of cargo space, a horizontally split two-piece tailgate. and a rear floor which lifts out to become a picnic table, revealing as it

does so a removable watertight tray. Accessory options, to be run off a socket in the rear, include a fridge, a shower hose and a power hoist for lifting bikes on the roof. Honda may not expect its CRV owners to ford

rivers or scale mountains, or even tackle treacherous conditions, but it certainly expects them to have fun.



Citroën Xantia: lower prices but with more equipment

duced by up to £650 while standard equipment has been upgraded. The SX saloon will now have an all-in-one body colour and rear spoiler together with alloy wheels and an Alcantara suede interior. These are added to automatic air-conditioning and self-levelling suspension that are already standard. The SX models in saloon

and estate versions wil also now have the option of the new 2.1-litre turbocharged diesel engine, which is some 20 per cent more powerful than the company's highly-rated 1.9TD but returns almost identical fuel economy. On-the-road prices start from £17,045.

SPARE PARTS

PRICES of the Citroën

Xantia range have been re-

■ A TRIUMPH motorbike has been added to the fleet that offers 24-hour assistance to Mercedes-Benz car and truck as a Mercedes technician.

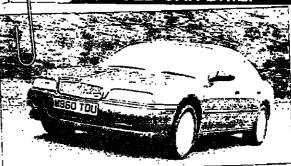
customers in the rather uncarrying vital diagnostic testlikely event of a breakdown. ing equipment and selected The company has recently added a push-bike to its range of vehicles but does not make any powered two-wheelers, so

turned to the British marque. "Experience has shown that a large proportion of breakdowns are the result of relatively minor faults and can often be remedied at the roadside without heavy equip-

ment," says the company.

The rider will be a qualified advanced motorcyclist trained parts and tools. ■ USED car sales on finance increased by 4.5 per cent -

twice the growth in the new car market - in the first quarter of this year compared to 1996, says Equifax HPI, the vehicle inquiry service. "Even though the economy is performing well again, consumers are still interested in the value for money found in a nearly new car." says the



ROVER 600
The Rover 600, launched four years ago, is at heart an Accord, developed during the days of the Rover-Honda pact before BMW bought the UK firm. Rover took the Accord, and turned in into the car it thought doctors and retired majors would love to drive, loaded with English charm, chrome and wood. Available only as a four-door saloon, with 1.8, 2.0 and 2.3-litre four-cylinder petrol engines, and 2-litre diesel.



A handsome car with plenty of design cues hinting at Rover's history as an automotive manufacturer of Space in the rear is cramped and the Honda engines can be noisy to some ears, though engine lovers will enjoy the racket, it looks better than it goes, and the note, road holding and

will have spent their lives as well-cared-for executive transport,

LOOK FOR:

handling are not up to the highest standards set by the competition The bizarre mix of the 200bhp T-Senes engine in the 620Ti and the factor of the factor o

electric adjustment and cruse control to the anti-lock braking of the SLi. Even the "entry level" Si offers burr walnut, central more sense. Electric toys such as central locking and windows must be checked. Ensure car locking, power steering, and electric windows. The excellent 2-fitre diesel should not be overlooked and adds surprising INSURANCE:
Cover from AA
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444777) on a 1994
Rover 62051 costs a
55-year-old professional, male or
female, lwing in Winchester with
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tully comprehensive. A



SAFETY:
Essentially a Honda
Accord, the Rover 600
does well in the
Department of
Transport's 'Choosing Safety'
rankings, rated alongside class
leaders such as the W Passet,
Margader 100 and Mazda 626

Mercedes 190 and Mazda 626, and ahead even of the Volvo 400 and Toyota Carina. REPLACEMENT PARTS

(pair) £75.60; radiator £228; alternator £378; starter motor £261.

Glassmatix 01932
823823): Full exhaust
5420; catalytic converter £508; rear damper £93.50; front brakepads

PRICES: Expect to pay £6,500 for a 1993 K-reg 620r, £8,500 for a 1994 M-reg 620 Si; £9,600 for a 1993 L-reg 623 Si; £10,000 for a 1994 L-reg 623 Si; £11,400 for a 1994 L-reg 623 Si automatic and £10,000 for a 1995 M-reg 620 turbodiesel SDr.

INSURANCE:

tully comprehensive A
22-year-old male, with one year
no claims living in south London
pays £1,132, and a similar female
pays £935.



The Rover 600 has never acquired the status of the BMW 5-series, or the Accord's reputation for faultiess reliability, which makes it an overlooked and under-rated example of classy motoring and a shrewd and relatively cheap choice for anyone seeking upmarket driving at reasonable prices

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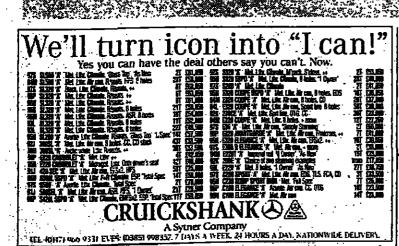
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How road CAR...TOONS HE SHOULD GIVE UPCIGARETTE bikes have passed the safety test

Production TT is back on June 6, basking in its status as one of the most popular events of the island's speed festival. Road bikes are once more able to race round the twists, turns. jumps and bumps of the world's most demanding road

racing circuit. The event was dropped after three-time TT winner Phil Mellor and Steve Henshaw were killed in the original 1300cc Production class race in 1989, with the predictable reaction that road bikes were too dangerous for the TT. So what has changed to make them "safe" to race again? The bikes themselves, according to supporters of the event, following last year's disaster-free re-launch which vindicated their faith in the safety of modern

When Mellor and Henshaw died - at Doran's Bend and Quarry Bends - many were quick to contend that road bikes of the day were unable to handle the fearsome bumps and frighteningly high corner speeds on the historic 37.75 mile circuit. Now, say manufacturers, bikes have been sufficiently refined and developed, in response to the continuing demand for race replica machines in the showrooms, to meet the TT challenge.

motorcycles.

One of the leading lights behind reviving the event is Honda UK's general manager Bob McMillan, who claims the race has proved a success for manufacturers, dealers and customers alike: "The Production TT has really awakened interest among our dealers and their customers. It has become a speciacle where

Paul Myles on

the return of production machines after death put them out of the TT

everyone gets to see just how

Of course, sales of motorcy-

cles lie behind the manufac-

turers' enthusiasm for produc-

tion racing. The World Superbike series demonstrates

the importance of a factory's

success on the track. It is no

accident that Ducati sells ev-

ery 916 it can make on the back

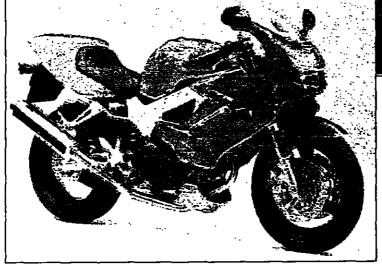
of the racing success it has

enjoyed. The bike-buying pub-

lic may warm to winners on

the grand prix scene, but it is

good the modern bikes are."



from within the ranks of the

road-based Superbikes that

they choose machines on which to spend their money.

It may also be no coinci-

dence that Honda's 900cc

Fireblade snatched back the

title of Britain's top-selling

hike after winning the Produc-

Most of the big manufactur-

ers use the race to promote

their wares. Honda this year

augments its victorious Fire-

blade with its V-twin 1000cc

tion TT last year.

Honda's Fireblade, above snatched back the title of Britain's topselling bike after winning the 1996

Production TT. This year it is joined by the V-twin sibling, the Firestorm, Suzuki

the new TL1000 V-Twin, Yamaha its range leader, the Thunderace, and Kawasaki both its ZX-7R and the awesome 900cc ZX-9R. Ducati will try to topple the mighty Japanese with its 916, and Triumph will fly the flag with three of the new T595 Daytonas lining

fields the lovely GSX-R750 and

Racers, too, are keen to enter the event which boasts the

up on the Douglas starting

third biggest prize money purse of the TT festival. Road riding race enthusiasts also want to see bikes very similar to their own pushed to the limit by the stars.

Eight-time TT winner and victor in last year's Production TT. Phillip McCallen, said racers are happy on the modern road bikes: "There is very little difference in the handling on a road circuit like the Isle of Man between the Fireblade I ride and my works' 750. Modern bikes are much safer than the old proddie bikes, which had the speed but did not handle so well.

"I think the fans like to see their own bikes being ridden at speed and the bike that wins the TT is really the best road bike in the world."

Indeed, many modern race replica bikes I have ridden are so close to emulating their race track cousins that they are seriously compromised as day-to-day transport.

Good though these ma-

chines are, no one could claim that any motor vehicle raced on the Isle of Man can do so in total safety. People can, and have, injured and killed themselves on antique racing bikes travelling at speeds a fraction of that achieved by modern machines. A grim tally of 168-TT competitors killed since the race began in 1907 is testimony to the dangers of the course.

Two deaths in practice week last year emphasise the point still further. Yorkshire's Mick Lofthouse died on his full race Yamaha 250, while the Kiwi rider. Rob Holden. was killed on a production specification Ducati 916 Corsa

fastest class lap times before they died. A racer will always push any racing vehicle to its limit. It just so happens that the Isle . of Man is not a good place to fall off a motorcycle - at any

greatest challenge a rider can face. That is why tens of thousands come back to this magical isle each year to pitch their riding skill against the Mountain Course.

A rider can experience a tremendous thrill when mastering a section at speeds hitherto a mere ambition. That thrill must be many times greater for the racers who seem to be breaking new

records every year. But danger goes hand-in-hand with that challenge. So it would be fathous to expect TT racing to be completely safe. Many TT fans hope that race organisers will not, once more. wring their hands and scrap a race when something goes wrong as, in time, it surely will for it one event is disched, Both men had clocked the the argument to ditch the whole festival becomes more

persuasive. That would deprive us all of the unique piece of heritage, some would say a national treasure, that the Isle speed. Yet the TT remains the of Man TF races have become.





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'I accept his offer of a lift. All I have to do is hang on'

Linda Galloway

discovers what

it's like to leave

the starting line

with the force of a Space Shuttle

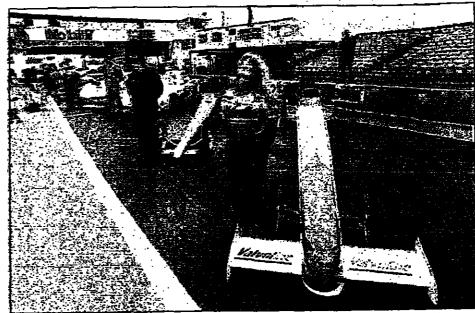
admit is average (and over-age) 0 to 70mph in . . . I don't know how long. But it's a long time. Gordon Appleton's Chev Camaro did 0 to 185mph in just 7.5 seconds - and would no doubt have been quicker without me in it.

OK, he has 11,000cc of power at his disposal, in an engine not unlike a life-support machine, all glearning metal and precision-engi neered pipes and valves which inject liquid nitromethane. It cost the equivalent of a small house and can drink a gallon of fuel in less than ten seconds over a quarter of a mile.

This is an accelerator with a chassis, very loud and very fast — on a runway it would leave a jumbo jet standing and it's drawing the crowds as drag racing enjoys a revival along with the food, music and fashion of the 1970s.

This weekend the Santa Pod Raceway in Bedfordshire hosts the first round of the FIA European Professional Drag Racing Championship, in four classes: Top Fuel (the equivalent of Formula One). Top Alcohol, Pro-Modified and Pro-Stock (the touring-car class). There is also UK Championship racing and the ACU Bike Championships, in which modified street bikes. also using nitromethane injection, reach speeds in excess of

in the Top Fuel and Top Alcohol dragster classes. women leave the competition standing. Swede Viveca Averstedt. in a 6.000bhp V8 dragster, holds the European FIA Championship title with 291mph in 5:03 seconds. She is



European FIA Championship holder Averstedt hopes to break the five-second barrier

hoping to break the fivesecond barrier on Monday. In the Top Alcohol class. Fay Fischer is Britain's fastest woman driver with a top speed of 210mph in 6:478 seconds.

The Pro-Stock dragsters are modified touring cars with about eight times more horsepower (and six times more neon paint). In the Top Fuel category, the nitromethane injection produces about 40 times the horsepower of the average street car.

Top-Fuel dragsters, which look like elongated go-karts, leave the starting line with a force nearly five times that of gravity, the same force as the Space Shuttle when it leaves the launch pad. The same force is applied in reverse when the twin parachutes open to stop the car. In 1 to 100mph trials, the Top Fuel cars are almost II seconds faster than a production

It's a non-stop-action event, complete with smoke, the smell of burning tyres and deafening noise as the cars compete, two-by-two, from a standing start. The fastest over the distance stays on the starting grid in successive elimination rounds until only one car is left. Spectators can view the entire track from the stand and have access to the pits, where they can chat to drivers and crews and look at the cars. And if that's not

enough. 12 times a year there

are "Run what you Brung"

events for enthusiasts with

rubber to burn.

acetrack owner Keith Bartlett, a former professional racing driver, would like to see drag racing in Europe achieve the mega-sport status it has in America. The track at Santa Pod has been upgraded with a special race-circuit surface on which Formula One cars are tested. Bartlett's company has spent £400,000 so tar, and hopes to get planning permission to upgrade the spartan and makeshift specta-

"We now have the track, the championship deal with FIA supremo Bernie Ecclestonel and the drivers. The sponsors are coming back into the sport and we've got comprehensive television coverage," he says. Leading the 200mph Pro-

Modified Class in the UK.

Gordon Appleton admits his high-speed habit. Like most junkies, he started small, with a speeding fine when he was 18. Now he seeks the sixsecond high, although he concedes the addiction costs more to support than any hard drug - the tyres, replaced every four miles, cost £600 a pair and the nitromethane (a form of lauging gas) is 30 times

An awesome ticket to ride

quite awesome

The tyres were spinning, the

nitromethane burning off in a...

plume, the noise and vibration:

Gordon thought this should have

been faster but after some rain,

track conditions were not perfect

The half-way mark and the

We crossed the finish line and experienced the exhibaration.

of moving at 185mph before

being pushed back again

by the force of braking

senses were overloaded



建 IF YOU want a taste of the immensely pow which is tast growing popularity, then for to-day only, there is a two one ticket offer for Times readers who present this copy of Car 97 at the gate. SANTA Pod Race-way is in Airfield Road. shire. It is signposted on the A509 from

junctions 14, 15 or 16 of the M1. The meeting runs throughout the Bank Holiday weekend. Threedev tickets (£35) include free camping. One-day tickets are £10 (today), £15 (Sunday) and £18 (Monday).

TICKET and information hotline

Against my better judg-ment, I accept his offer of a lift to the other end of the track. reminded that my own speed record is 110mph while testing a 600cc motorbike on a private stretch of road. Strapped in and helmeted, under strict instruction not to touch anything. I survey the cockpit. stripped of all saloon-car faithfuls but with on-board computer and other levers and gadgets essential to low flying. When the lights on the starting grid change, Gordon must complete a series of splitsecond manoeuvres, guided by a sequence of lights. All I have to do is hang on.

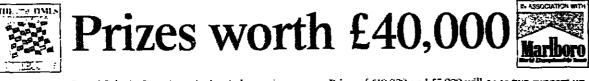
After the track has been

sprayed with sticky goo, we do a burnout -- spinning the tyres in a pool of water and then a short - but - stomach-churning drag to clean and prep them for better traction. Er, that was lovely, can I get out now please? But no, with a nerveshattering roar the revs climb to 4,000 (with plenty more to come) and I am forcefully pinned to the seat as we take off. The back tyres dig in, the front ones lift off the ground. I feel the back of the car slide out and then straighten up. And then we are there. The blink of an eye. The long blink of an eye ... mine are tightly shut.

A THINTES POLICE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF T Play Fantasy Formula One

Appleton shows Galloway what takes his Chev Camaro from 0 to 185mph in 7.5 seconds

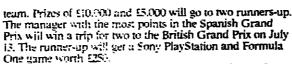




Pomorrow's Grand Prix, in Barcelona, is the sixth race in 1 par 140,000 Fantasy Formula One competition which offers a 125,000 grand prize to the manager who heads our leaderboard after the European Grand Priv at Jerez. Spain. on October 20. In first position on our leaderboard with 3.375 points is N Rowe from Totton, Southampton, His team, What Alesi Bunch! scored 903 points in Monte Carlo. TO ENTER It you have not yet entered a team into our Mattakt congretation use the panel, below right, to make

three selections from each of the four groups and call

0891405 001 (+44 990 100 31) outside the UK). THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Priv on Capaber 35 will win the first prize of \$25,000 courses of our stonsor Marlboro Vocid Championship



TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Canadian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990) 100 394 ex UK; before noon Thursday, June 12. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you

select will be your prediction for the British GP bonus points. CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position after the Spanish Grand Prix on 089i 884 648 1+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.

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How Karen rolled her own

espite the physical and psychological tests that led to their selection, the British team flipped on only the third day of this year's Camel Trophy in Mongolia.

The flip, happened when Karen McDonald, a 30-year-old firefighter from Hereford and the first woman to represent the UK in the event's ISyear history, took the concept of "off-road" literally. A combination of gravity and a corner taken at speed left her Land Rover Discovery on its side.

"i just thought. "Oh. no. Here we go, said Trevor Smith, 26. Karen's team-mate and a British Aerospace engineer from Lancaster. rolled a couple of times and came to rest on the driver's side. Thank God for the internal roll cage."

Fortunately, the occupants emerged with nothing more than a few cuts and bruises --Karen had four stitches put into her elbow — but the vehicle came off a little worse. Now the driver's door won't open and some of the windows are missing. "New and improved ventilation". Karen put circumspectly. "merely cosmetics.

But Karen was not alone. Of 20 national teams taking part. the Swedes and Russians have also rolled vehicles and the Greeks have turned their Discovery over at least three times. Derogatory talk was silenced when the UK team went on to win the vehiclebased orienteering stage de-

This year's Camel Trophy is a circumnavigation of Mongolia. starting from the capital, Ulan Bator. On May 13, the Prime Minister welcomed the 20 teams before leading the convoy of Discoverys to Turtle Rock, a stunning and massive rock formation to the north. Here the Mongolians put on an exhibition of archery, wres**Perry Cleveland-Peck** reports from Mongolia on a turnover for the

British team in the Camel Trophy

and friendly display by the descendants of Genghis Khan's golden hordes. After a night spent in gers. the traditional Mongolian circular canvas tent, our four-wheel-drive golden horde set off on the 2,400km route to the ancient city of Kharakorum. The route continues up to the

tling and horse riding, a gentle

Siberian and mountainous north of Mongolia, down through the rolling grasslands and then 1,000km across the Gobi desert. A route through two very different climates, with eight competition sites to be visited along the way. How the teams get to the

sites is up to them, but it is sure to involve a river crossing or two, ample use of the winch when pulling stuck vehicles from the quagmire and plenty of serious desert driving. Once the teams arrive, they are put through a series of arduous mountain biking, kayaking

spite their accident.

and orienteering competitions

— a new addition to the vehicle-based event and one, itis hoped, that will open it up to a wider range of people. The teams carry on their vehicle's specially-built roof rack a pair of Lee Cougan mountain bikes and a Perception two-man

kayak, used also to store

luggage.
Watched only by nomadic herdsmen and the occasional yak, the teams travelled 300km to the competition site at Selenge via the "Bridge with. no name" that spans the Orhon river. The landscape here is awesome - vast, undulating, unspoiled, open spaces fringed by mountains, strangely reminiscent of the American prairies. The wind, however, is chilly with the

smell of snow on the air. Route navigation from site to site is constantly monitored by the Camel Trophy judges for the Land Rover Award.

Each day an experienced driver who knows the terrain places a GPS (Global Positioning System) waypoint on the route. This sets the "ideal distance" and the teams have to get to the waypoint using their onboard satellite navigation device "taking the shortest reasonable route using existing tracks". "It is a clever method of

assessing the teams navigational skills and it also keeps them from veering too far off the designated course," said a Carnel Trophy organiser. The British team are lying

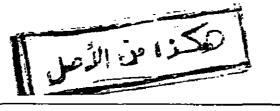
12th overall after problems in the mountain bike competitions and orienteering. Ironically, Trevor Smith is a very strong cyclist and was leading in the race until he took a wrong turn. Nevertheless, morale is

high. The competitors' boil-inthe-bag food is better than that served in the local hotel. Fresh food and vegetables are mird to find, though one night the team from the Canary Islands managed to buy a goat, Currently known as "the mascot", I fear it's eventual fate may be





Smith and McDonald come up smiling after their Land Rover literally went off-road





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Jonathan gets his teeth into it

Tony Dawe on more bidders

to be company

driver of the year

novice from Peterborough and an advanced motorist from Cambridge have won the latest heats in our annual contest to find Britain's best company

car driver. Jonathan Popple, 20, was almost speechless after learning that he had triumphed in the first of two heats at Bracknell. The never done anything like this before and thought I had no hope of

winning," he said. The only surprise for Chris Hollands, on the other hand. was that he had managed to pip his team-mate. Andy Price. by two points to win his heat. They both competed as members of the Permabond team last year when Andy won their heat to reach the final.

Jonathan, a sales and marketing consultant, only won his place in the team representing Denplan, the dental insurance company, after his name was drawn out of a hat. Our office manager spotted details of the competition in Car 97 and an e-mail went round inviting entrants." he said. "I was delighted to get a place as I enjoy driving and was keen to pick up as many tips as possible. He drives 25,000 miles a year in the company's Rover 41h.

"I haven't hit anything the road for some years," he said. "but I certainly hit the cones in the braking tests and failed to find some of the defects on a specially-prepared Nissan Primera in the faultfinding exercise."

Tim Betts, leader of the Denplan team, said: "Jonathan might have made a few mistakes, but he was brilliant

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on the Highway Code. The speed with which he answered some of the complicated questions amazed the instructor."

Chris and the Permabond team are keen supporters of The Times/Lease Plan competition and its aim of raising the profile and reputation of comnany car drivers. Chris. 38, an accounts manager who drives 40,000 miles a year in an Audi A4. is a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and of the Drive Safe team

formed by his company. Safety is the number one issue throughout the company and driving safely is a natural extension of the policy." he

Chris performed outstandingly in his heat, scoring 92 out of 100 during the on-road test, which included Highway Code questions. He located nine of the ten defects in the fault-finding exercise and dropped only a handful of points on the braking test and on the manoeuvrability exercise, which involved completing an obstacle course without dislodging a ball from a large saucer on the bonnet.

The low-speed exercise contrasted with one of Chris's other motoring interests: the Thrust supersonic car. Permabond is a sponsor of the project, responsible for bonding all the panels together, and Chris and his colleagues had visited Richard Noble, the project leader, and the car before heading for Bracknell. Chris and Jonathan will

now join four other winners and six more yet to be chosen in the Lials at the July 4. The victor will then enjoy an expenses-paid trip to the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril on October 26, the culmination of the 1997 season. A team prize is also offered and both Denplan and Permabond must fancy their chances after the performances at Bracknell.



Collision course: cones go flying on the braking test

Readers of The Times can hone their driving skills at the famous Silverstone Driving Centre which has now expanded its operations to Croft Circuit in Darlington. north Yorkshire.

The special offer consists of:

Track saloon driving 575 (usually £110) 535 (usually £115) Single-seaters Multi-activity day £250 (usually £299)

With the multi-activity day there is an opportunity to drive on track in a singleseater and race-prepared saloon, plus a skid car, Caterham 7 autotest and Hondaengined Pro-karts.

For more information, please contact the Booking Line on: 01325 722272 quoting The Times Reader Offer.

The offer applies to courses booked before July 31, 1997. The course type and date must be selected at the time of booking.

This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offers, promotions or discounts.

Spanish black cabs come in all colours

he famous London black cab was launched this week as the traffic-busting answer to the crowded streets of Spain.

British holidaymakers will be forgiven a moment's confusion as the familiar cab pulls up in Barceiona. Madrid or Seville, amid the Seats.

VW Passats and Ford Escorts.

Those used to the black cab in

London however will notice one or two changes. The steering wheel has been moved to the left-hand side but, far more strikingly, instead of black. the cab is far more likely to be dolled up in yellow, white, blue or red.

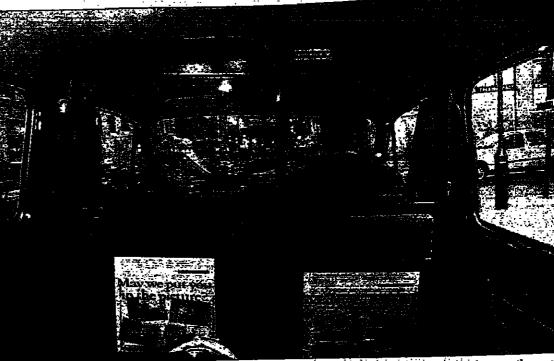
The unlikely British export was the talk of this week's Barcelona motor show, where it took centre stage as the Spanish importers unveiled the cab for the first time, together with details of their plans to import hundreds of the London icons.

The instantly-recognisable London cab, one of the very few purpose-built city taxis, has established an indomitable reputation for being able to

Vaughan Freeman learns how an icon of London has found a place in the sun

survive hundreds of thousands of miles of stop-go (mostly stop) motor-ing, decades of traffic jams and a lifetime of nerve-jangling U-turns. Now importer Enrique Tomas Seg-arra, director-general of London Taxi España, believes Spain's city motor-ists are ready for the ducking and diving of a London cab.

Despite a price tag of five million pesetas (about £22,000). Segarra believes he will be able to sell up to 300 London taxis a year. "We have just sold our first one in Valencia, and that taxi driver reports that he is doing so much more business simply because people like the idea of being driven in a traditional London taxi."



Fare attraction: Spanish importers like the door-lock system to deter passengers who would rather run than pay

We are part of a company that has been selling British cars, such as Jaguar, MG and Land Rover for more than 30 years in Spain. The cabs are absolutely the same as in London except that they are lefthand drive, have air-conditioning to cope with our heat for the comfort of the passengers and will be a different colour. In Barcelona, taxis are black

and yellow. In the north of Spain taxis can be any colour and elsewhere

they will be painted white: The image is also very important.
Who does not know of the London black cab? Who hasn't seen one, or been in one? They are so comfortable, so roomy, so robust — so simpatico."

The Fairway Taxi, powered by a four-cylinder, 2.7-litre Nissan diesel

engine, is built by the Coventry-based London Taxi International Carbodies, a subsidiary of Manganese Bronse, at the rate of more than 2,000 a year. Its Spanish importers are also making great play of the cab's other main features, a six-year anti-corrosion warranty and its door-lock system to deter passengers who

THE REAL PROPERTY.

25.00m



25,000 miles flat out at 140mph. You'll never need to do it. But it's nice to know you can.

IF YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING TEST-DRIVING A SAAB 900, think about the one it's aiready had. We drove one around Alabama's Tailadega circuit for 8 days and nights, non-scop, flat out (that's 25,000 miles, 140mph).

In the process we broke forty international longdistance records. The engine, despite our best efforts, remained undamaged.

Clearly, it's nice to know that the Saab 900 possesses such power and endurance.

Better still, it's nice to know it's not beyond your means. On the road, a Saab 990 will cost you from £15,500', whitst contract here for business users is from £199 a month,

To arrange a test drive, phone 0800 626 556. And on the day, remember to observe the speed limit.

MINAL DEPOSIT. CONTRACT HIRE SCHEME. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: SAAB 9001 3.219.30. Monthly payments = 47x£199.00. On the road cash price = £15.500.00

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